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Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Ahmad Jibril's Visit to Iran Reported

JN1807210089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] On the occasion of the ceremony commemorating the death of Imam Khomeyni 40 days ago, a delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], led by PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril and comprising Political Bureau Member 'Umar al-Shihabi and a number of Central Committee members, visited the Islamic Republic of Iran. The delegation visited the tomb of Imam Khomeyni and recited Koranic verses over his chaste soul. The delegation also participated in the ceremony marking the 40th day after the death of the imam.

The PFLP-GC delegation met with the Islamic revolution officials and explained to them the Palestine question and the plots being concocted against it by Zionism, imperialism, Arab reactionaries, and rightist capitulationists, considering the Palestine question and the liberation of Jerusalem a trust assigned to officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the visit, the Iranian officials expressed their unanimity on the following points:
—Stressing the continuation of the Islamic revolution's march on the line of Imam Khomeyni.
—The Islamic revolution's firm stand toward supporting the oppressed and deprived and fighting the despots and oppressors.
—Considering the liberation of Palestine a divine commandment and an Islamic duty.
—Commending the Palestinian people's struggle and blessed intifadah [uprising].
—Continuing contacts and consultation between the Iranian and PFLP-GC leaders.

'Abd-Rabbuh Assails Baker, Kelly Remarks

NC1807174889 Paris AFP in English 1734 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 18 (AFP)—A top PLO official has denounced statements by U.S. foreign policy makers as "a flagrant expression of disregard for Palestinian rights and a shameful courtesy towards Israel," a Gulf daily reported Tuesday.

"Our dialogue with the U.S. will remain difficult as long as American officials insist on blessing the Israeli election plan," Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, an Executive Committee member of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, said in the AL-BAYAN daily.

"The recent U.S. positions are not a source of optimism for achieving the aspired results fromt the dialogue with the U.S.," he said.

The paper said Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, who leads the PLO in negotiations with the U.S. in Tunis, was commenting on remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his assistant John Kelly.

Mr. Baker on Monday told the ABC television network that an international conference—a key PLO demand—could harm other peace initiatives such as elections proposed by Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir.

The Israeli plan calls for elections in the occupied territories and an interim solution of autonomy.

Mr. Shamir, under pressure from hardliners in his Likud bloc, this month accepted amendments that excluded voting for residents of mainly Arab East Jerusalem, negotiations with the PLO and the creation of a Palestinian state.

Mr. Kelly said at a congressional hearing last week that the U.S.-PLO dialogue started in December had failed to achieve much and could not continue indefinitely.

Cited on Dialogue With U.S.

NC1907071289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with the United States, has stated that this dialogue has become more difficult because of the recent comments made by U.S. officials on the situation in the Middle East. He said that this dialogue will remain difficult as long as U.S. officials continue to (?encourage) the Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories.

Salah Khalaf Views U.S. Mideast Peace Role

PM1807123289 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 7 Jul 89 p 9

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre, Abu-Iyad, by Muhammad al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qulaybi] Views and attitudes differ when it comes to an assessment of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Some see it as a positive and significant step, whereas others see it as a political maneuver to gain time and absorb the intifadah [uprising]. What does Abu-Iyad think?

[Khalaf] There can be no doubt that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue itself is a positive step and part of the recent PLO political victories. As far as the substance is concerned, the dialogue is slow. That is true. We should not forget that in its Middle East policy, the United States does not distance itself from Israel and the Zionist lobby that to a large extent control the United States. The United States wants to continue its dialogue with the PLO while taking into consideration these forces which influence it decisions on the Palestinian or Middle East questions. That is today's reality, but despite that we say that the dialogue is good and we hope that the U.S. Administration will develop its positions which, relatively speaking, are more advanced than those adopted by the Reagan administration. I believe the current U.S. Administration could take essential steps to boost the

peace process and settle the Palestinian question, particularly now that the U.S. and European public realize that Israel is obstinately and intransigently opposed to peace and that it wants to take everything and give nothing.

[Al-Qulaybi] The third session of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has been transformed into a U.S. attempt to win the PLO over to Shamir's plan and elections. What is the PLO's position?

[Khalaf] Events always impose themselves in every stage of the dialogue. At first the dialogue was on the intifadah and military operations. Now there is Shamir's plan, a supposed peace plan. The Americans have taken the point in it about elections and have kept harping on about it. I do not believe that this is wrong; in fact it is useful because it allows an exchange of views between us in complete freedom and frankness.

[Al-Qulaybi] There is talk of possible Palestinian flexibility on the question of elections.

[Khalaf] There should be no talk of Palestinian flexibility because the Palestinian position has never been more moderate than it is now. Our position is clear as regards a comprehensive plan for a final negotiated settlement in harmony with our view of self-determination and establishment of a Palestinian state. That is why we will agree to elections if they are held within that general framework. If the Americans and Israelis accepted this comprehensive plan we would agree to unconditional elections, asking only for simple measures to ensure democracy and free and honest elections.

We actually do not want to go into proceedings and details of elections before knowing the purpose and aims of such elections.

If the aim is to negotiate with Israel for autonomy and separation of the Palestinians inside [the occupied territory] from the Palestinians outside, then we refuse, and no power on Earth can divide our people. It is not up to Shamir to say who the Palestinian people are. The Palestinian people are known and do not need to be identified, unlike the Israelis who do need to be defined: Who is an Israeli, or who is a Jew?

[Al-Qulaybi] Israel wants to negotiate only with the Palestinians inside.

[Khalaf] Shamir, who comes from Poland, wants to treat the Palestinian people on the basis of what he heard about the "Hungarian minority" in Yugoslavia. That is the same line that Begin wanted to follow, having studied the conditions of the minorities under the Romanian, Yugoslav, and Polish systems. [passage omitted]

We are one and the same people, and neither Israel nor anyone else can divide us. We have understood from the American side in the dialogue that they have no intention of dividing the Palestinian people into Palestinians inside and Palestinians outside, and that is good.

[Al-Qulaybi] But the United States has asked the PLO to allow the Palestinians inside to negotiate with Israel. That means that the United States does classify the Palestinians as Palestinians inside and Palestinians outside.

[Khalaf] Of course we have differences of opinion with the United States. That is why there is a dialogue between us. We disagree with them on any point of principle that challenges the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside and PLO representation of the Palestinian people. The Americans know our position very well but they are looking for outlets to enable the settlement process to start. As Secretary of State Baker said, they are looking through the eye of a needle because of the Israeli obduracy and intransigence. I say, however, that a wrong start could lead to an even bigger mistake.

[Al-Qulaybi] Baker and U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Pelletreau have emphasized that elections are the way to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Does the PLO agree to hold bilateral negotiations with Israel and, if so, on what basis?

[Khalaf] First of all, the Israelis refuse to talk to the PLO. Therefore I believe there is no need for us to give our views on this matter, particularly since our position is clear on the issue of an international conference which is the ideal and sole framework for negotiations. Israel, which rejects the word "PLO" and refuses to deal with the PLO, has drawn up a plan in which it identifies the Palestinian people, who should represent them and in what framework, and even the results of the negotiations. That is Shamir's plan. [passage omitted]

We, at any rate, insist on the Palestinian peace initiative, which received unanimous Arab support at the Casablanca summit.

[Al-Qulaybi] The U.S. ambassador in Tunisia has stressed that Israeli-Palestinian negotiations would be based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of land for peace.

[Khalaf] Israel accepts neither Resolutions 242 and 338 nor the principle of land for peace, but we do, as is evident from our resolutions. On the land for peace principle, we do not agree at all to negotiate the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. That is our natural and legitimate right.

[Al-Qulaybi] There was a belief that the PLO did not take the steps that it has and did not take the recent political initiatives before receiving U.S. guarantees through a Swedish mediator.

[Khalaf] The contact with Sweden occurred after the Palestine National Council resolutions in Algiers, not before. So we did not make these decisions for the sake of the United States, Israel, or any other side. We did it for the sake of the Palestinian people. We are convinced of these decisions because we realize that the current balance of power would not allow any more than that. So we had to be realistic. [passage omitted]

Algeria

'Arafat Announces 'Joint Plan', Leaves for Tunis

LD1807125489 Algiers APS in English 1146 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Algiers, 18 July (APS)—Yasir 'Arafat president of the State of Palestine who paid a short visit to Algiers yesterday announced the setting up of a joint Algerian-Palestinian plan.

He said in a statement after his audience with President Chadli Bendjedid that his talks with the head of state took up developments in the Arab territories following Tel Aviv decisions to carry on its "iron fist" policy and to intensify repression against the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian leader had talks later with Abdelhamid Mehri secretary general of FLN C.C. [Central Committee] on the Palestinian and Lebanese problems.

Yasir 'Arafat who arrived here in the morning left Algiers for Tunis.

Egypt

Israeli Minister, SHAS Leader Arrive 17 Jul

NC1807061489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2248 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, spiritual leader of the Israeli SHAS Party, and Minister of Interior Arye Der'i arrived in Cairo tonight for a visit.

Meet With Al-Baz 18 Jul

NC1807155889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the president's office for political affairs, met today with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, member of the Israeli religious party SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Israeli Interior Minister Arye Der'i and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir.

Following the meeting, Dr al-Baz said that it had provided an opportunity for an exchange of views between us and the forces represented by the Israeli rabbi. He noted that there are useful initiatives of mutual concern to the two sides. He added: We are interested in peace in the Middle East like all other Arab countries and the world. He expressed the hope that the consultations and talks on the Middle East problem will create real opportunities for establishing peace in the coming months.

The Israeli rabbi said that he had come to Cairo to discuss with Egyptian officials the issue of removing the Jewish cemeteries in the al-Basatin area of Cairo away from the circular road now under construction around greater Cairo. The Israeli rabbi asked for a period of at least 30 days for moving the remains to another area.

Answering a question on whether the rabbi had asked that the circular road be rerouted away from the Jewish cemeteries, the Egyptian ambassador in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, said that the Egyptian decision is very clear and will not be changed.

Paper Stresses Need for Mideast Peace Conference

NC1707055689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2153 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has praised the decision of the foreign ministers of the seven big Western industrialized countries to support the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East as a suitable framework for direct dialogue among all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In its editorial tomorrow, the paper says that this decision makes it clear that the idea of the international conference now enjoys support from everyone.

The paper asks what, in view of this decision, is stopping the U.S. Administration from clearly announcing its effective support for an international peace conference, especially after its secretary of state, James Baker, took part in drafting the resolution of the industrialized states summit and after senior U.S. officials have made statements objecting to the conditions the Likud Central Committee imposed on the elections plan in the occupied territories.

The paper praises President Husni Mubarak's talks in Paris with French President Francois Mitterrand, noting that these talks resulted in the drawing up of a French-Egyptian plan for any Middle East settlement to be based on the continuation of diplomatic action in favor of convening an international conference to be attended by the permanent member states of the UN Security Council and the parties to the conflict, including the PLO. Under the plan, the United States would exert pressure on Israel to respond to the positive position stands adopted by the PLO.

The paper affirms that the situation is now ripe for serious, tangible steps toward convening an international conference without delay before matters develop in a way in which the consequences cannot be foreseen.

Fatah Representative on U.S., Egyptian Policies

NC1707114289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah Movement's representative in Cairo, has expressed appreciation for the role that Egypt plays under President Husni Mubarak's leadership. He praised the results of the summit meeting between President

Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo last week. In a statement to MENA, the Palestinian official asserted that the acts of Israeli repression and terror will not succeed in quelling the intifadah [uprising] which will continue until it achieves its aim of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

Zuhdi al-Qidrah criticized U.S. policy which turns a blind eye to Israeli practices in an attempt to enable Israel to harm the intifadah.

The Palestinian official praised the stand of the seven major industrial states on the Palestinian issue and urged these countries, including the United States, to adopt practical stands in this regard.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Talks in Yugoslavia

NC1707103889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Jul (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has announced that President Husni Mubarak will address the nonaligned summit which he will be attending next September.

In a statement to MENA, 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt wants the next nonaligned summit to succeed and achieve the Nonaligned Movement's objectives, particularly at this time of understanding and rapprochement between the two superpowers. He noted that the Nonaligned Movement has always called for and sought to attain understanding and agreement between the two superpowers, something which has now occurred.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid added that his talks in Belgrade dealt primarily with preparations for the Nonaligned Movement's summit as well as the new approach the movement intends to adopt in order to focus its activity on important issues, particularly economic and development issues, cooperation among the movement's members, promotion of North-South dialogue, and the issues of foreign debts, trade, and the environment. He noted that these issues are now coming to the fore on the international scene as never before.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that with this approach we can affirm that the nonaligned countries will contribute to the atmosphere of international rapprochement and understanding.

He said that Egyptian and Yugoslav views on the issues discussed were identical. He noted that his talks also dealt with the Middle East and the Palestinian issues and said that during the discussions he presented all the developments and the results of the consultations that had taken place in Paris. He said that the discussions were part of the ongoing Egyptian-Yugoslav consultations on important issues, particularly as Yugoslavia is currently a member of the UN Security Council and this month's chairman.

He added that the talks also dealt with promoting bilateral cooperation and said that Egypt desires to increase trade exchange and economic cooperation and to encourage joint Egyptian-Yugoslav projects. He noted that Yugoslavia is active in various fields in Egypt and that the two countries have an understanding on these issues. He pointed out that Egypt is careful to find solutions to any obstacles in this respect.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid concluded his statement by noting that Egyptian-Yugoslav cooperation is long-standing and successful and has always been an example for international cooperation.

Ghali Leaves for OAU Conference in Addis Ababa

NC1707064889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Addis Ababa early this morning to attend the 50th conference of the OAU foreign ministers which will begin later today.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Ghali said that the Egyptian delegation attending the meetings includes a large group of ambassadors and experts because one of the tasks of the conference is to prepare for the 25th OAU summit which will be held in the Ethiopian capital next Monday. The summit will last for 3 days and is expected to elect President Husni Mubarak as OAU chairman.

Dr Ghali added that one of the most important issues to be discussed by the conference will be Namibian independence. He noted that general elections will be held in Namibia under UN supervision in November.

The conference will also discuss the Middle East and Lebanese issues and formulate a new strategy to fight apartheid in South Africa. It will also discuss the African debt issue and South-South economic cooperation.

Dr Ghali said that a new OAU secretary general will be elected. He pointed out that the current secretary general, Ide Oumarou of Niger, and Tanzania's Salem Ahmed Salem are competing for the post.

Pakistani Drug Smuggler Detained at Airport

NC1107045489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2307 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Cairo airport customs authorities have foiled an attempt by a Pakistani citizen arriving from Karachi to smuggle 3.650 kg of heroin worth more than 3.5 million pounds.

As the passengers who arrived aboard an Egyptian airliner from Pakistan were going through customs control, passenger Thanaullah Umran Khan [name as received] aroused the suspicion of Labib Sallum, customs shift

supervisor. Upon searching Khan's luggage, Sallum discovered a quantity of heroin pressed in the form of sheets and hidden in concealed compartments and in a guide book about Egypt. When the passenger himself was searched, Sallum discovered more heroin hidden in Khan's shoes. The address of a person in Cairo was also found written on Khan's underwear. The passenger admitted that he was planning to deliver the heroin to this person. He also admitted possession of the seized quantity of heroin. The passenger's testimony was taken and he was referred to the prosecution for questioning.

A Pakistani citizen was recently executed after he was found guilty by an Egyptian court in a similar case.

Morocco

French Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit

Received by King Hassan

LD1907085989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rashid, received this afternoon at the royal palace in Skirhat, Mr Roland Dumas, the French minister of foreign affairs, accompanied by his country's ambassador in Rabat. The meeting was attended by Mr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, His Majesty's adviser Ahmed Reda Guedira, Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri, and his majesty's ambassador in Paris, Dr Yusuf Ben Abbes.

Mr Roland Dumas, the French minister of foreign affairs, arrived at Rabat-Sale airport on an official visit to Morocco accompanied by a delegation of senior French officials including [name indistinct], the secretary of state at the French Foreign Ministry in charge of international cultural relations. Mr Roland Dumas was met at the airport by Mr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Moroccan ambassador in Paris, Yusuf Ben Abbes, the French ambassador to Morocco, and other officials.

At the VIP hall in the airport Mr Roland Dumas made a statement to the press. The French minister said that his visit comes at an important time in the life of world diplomacy, explaining that among the members of his delegation is the official in charge of international cultural relations, signifying the importance of these talks. He said that along with French-Moroccan relations—which will touch upon cultural, financial, economic, social, and political issues—he will discuss international issues with his Moroccan counterpart. The French official stressed that Morocco and France, which shoulder international responsibilities, will exchange views in the wake of the industrialized countries' summit recently hosted by France. The meeting comes at a time when Morocco is assuming great responsibilities in the international arena, particularly in relation to the Middle East problem.

Holds Working Session With Filali

LD1907091189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] A Moroccan-French working session was held this afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The session was headed by the Moroccan and French foreign ministers, Messrs Abdellatif Filali and Roland Dumas.

Taking part in this session on the Moroccan side were the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation in charge of the affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union, Moulay Driss Alaoui El Modaghri; Mohamed Karim Lamrani, director-general of the Phosphates Bureau; and his majesty's ambassador to France, Dr Yusuf Ben Abbes. Participating on the French side were Mr Thierry de Boissy, secretary of state for foreign affairs in charge of international cultural relations, and the French ambassador to Rabat, in addition to the two ministers' close aides.

The two sides' talks focused on bilateral relations and cooperation between the EEC and the Arab Maghreb Union, as well as a number of international issues, particularly the problem in the Middle East.

Holds Rabat News Conference

LD1907092189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpt] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas held a news conference this evening in Rabat in conjunction with his visit to Morocco. Mr Dumas began with an address in which he said that his visit to our country, distinguished by his meetings with King Hassan and his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Filali, came at an important time, given that France is currently heading the EEC and that Morocco chairs the Arab Maghreb Union.

The meetings also came at a time when Morocco, in the person of King Hassan, is making gigantic efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis in the framework of the Arab higher tripartite committee on the one hand, and is working to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the other hand. He also spoke about the issues covered by his meeting with his Moroccan counterpart, Mr Filali, a meeting he described as constructive and very useful.

The French foreign minister answered journalists questions, most of which concentrated on relations between the Arab Maghreb Union and the EEC, scopes for future cooperation between the two economic groups, the Lebanese problem, and the efforts made by the Arab tripartite committee to resolve this crisis. The questions also

related to the Gulf crisis, relations with Europe, and the results of the summit of the seven most industrialized countries held recently in Paris. [passage omitted]

Departs Morocco 18 Jul

LD1907092589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The French minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roland Dumas, left Morocco last night after an official visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Appoints Minister of State for Defense

EA1507200889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1633 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of the people and the Armed Forces, the National Salvation Command Council's [NSRCC] Decree No 43 for 1989 appoints a minister of state:

Having referred to the first constitutional ordinance of 1989, the council issues the following decree. This decree shall be called a decree appointing a minister of state and shall be valid with effect from the date of its signing: Staff Major General ('Uthman Muhaad al-Hasan), retired, is appointed minister of state for defense affairs at the Defense Ministry upon the order of the NSRCC.

Signed by me, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Chairman of the NSRCC, on 7 Dhu'l-Hijjah 1409 A.H., corresponding to 10 July 1989 A.D.

Command Council Member Meets Anyanya-II Leader

EA1707203689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Colonel (Pio Yukwan), member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and political supervisor for the Upper Nile Region, today met at the Southern Council a delegation of the Anyanya-II movement led by Major General (Paulino Matib), leader of the movement. During the meeting, the general conditions affecting Anyanya-II forces and the efforts being made by the government to achieve peace were discussed. The participants stressed the need to open channels of [word indistinct] communication within the movement (?to avoid) contradictions in terms of responsibilities and viewpoints. The Anyanya-II delegation condemned the former southern parties for exploiting the movement in order to achieve positions of power. At the end of the meeting, Col (Pio) praised the delegation and the role being performed by Anyanya-II in maintaining security in the south.

Minister Cited on Relations With Egypt

EA1407120589 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 14 Jul (SUNA)—Mr Muhammad Shummu, the minister of culture and information, has expressed optimism over the recent visit of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, to the Republic of Egypt. He said the visit would positively reflect the strength of the fraternal relations between the two countries. The minister said in a statement today: It is not surprising that Egypt has been the first foreign country to be visited by Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir. He said officials of the two countries would be exchanging visits to be able to discuss all aspects of bilateral cooperation in the interests of the two peoples. Meanwhile, Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir returned at dawn yesterday after ending a brief visit to the area, during which he held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on bilateral issues. The leader of the revolution thanked Mubarak and expressed appreciation for the Egyptian Government's support for the Sudanese people since the rise of the revolution.

The two presidents held a brief news conference during which Lt Gen al-Bashir replied to questions put to him by journalists on the revolution's policies and the steps it was taking to solve the southern and economic problems.

During his visit to Cairo, Lt Gen al-Bashir, the night before last, also met the Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, who congratulated him personally and on behalf of the Palestinian people on bringing about the national salvation revolution in Sudan, confirming to his excellency that the fraternal and cooperative relations between the Palestinian revolution and the Sudanese people would continue. Lt Gen 'Umar thanked him and confirmed Sudan's firm commitment to and support for the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Discusses Ties With Iraq

JN1807133789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Sudanese Information Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shummu stresses that Sudan's relations with Iraq proceed from a principled and ethical position. Firm adherence to this position, he says, was one of the factors that accelerated the departure of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government, which had suspicious ties with Iran.

In a comprehensive statement to ALIF BA' magazine to be published here tomorrow, the Sudanese minister says the policy of the new Sudanese Government stem from the priorities of its national and pan-Arab commitments.

The minister expresses optimism about the prospects of Iraqi-Sudanese relations and says that a high-level Sudanese delegation headed by a Revolution Command Council member will visit Iraq on 22 July to acquaint the brothers in Iraq with the situation in Sudan and work toward a bright future for the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Shummu praises Iraq's support for Sudan and says the Sudanese people will always remember Iraq's genuine pan-Arab stand when it provided Sudan with the arms that enabled it to liberate a Sudanese city in 1 day. This stand is engraved in the memory and conscience of every honorable Sudanese, he says.

He says former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is under arrest and will be brought to trial after his interrogation. He points out that there are currently 60 detainees in Sudan.

Shummu praises the launching of the Arab Cooperation Council and stresses that the new Sudanese Government is extraordinarily interested in the experience of the council and its pan-Arab dimensions and that it is currently studying the possibility of joining it.

He says the Khartoum government will soon enter into negotiations with the southern movement. It will not be possible to solve Sudan's economic problems without resolving the problem of the south, he explains.

Kuwait

Talks With Soviet Military Delegation Begin

LD1807120189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0953 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 18 (KUNA)—Minister of Defense Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al Sabah Tuesday received Soviet Deputy Minister Konstantin Kochetov and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Soviet ambassador to Kuwait during which discussions centered on ways of fostering military cooperation between the two countries.

Further Details on Talks

LD1807170989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1414 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 18 (KUNA)—Visiting Soviet Deputy Defence Minister Konstantin Kochetov conferred here Tuesday with Acting Defence Undersecretary Hammani Muhammad al-'Utaybi. The exchange dealt with military issues of mutual interest to Kuwait and the Soviet Union. Following the talks, the two sides exchanged token gifts on the occasion.

Present at the talks were Assistant Defence Undersecretary for External Supplies Affairs Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jarrah Al Sabah, the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait and members of the delegation accompanying the Soviet guest.

Later, the Soviet deputy defence minister had an exchange with Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army General Jabir al-Khalid Al Sabah.

The meeting, held in the presence of the Soviet accompanying delegation and a number of senior army commanders, examined military subjects of joint interest for the Kuwaiti and Soviet armies and bilateral ties. Commemorative gifts were exchanged by both sides on the occasion.

The Soviet official and his accompanying delegation are to attend a luncheon today hosted by Kuwaiti army's deputy chief of staff in their honor.

Kochetov and entourage arrived here yesterday on a four-day official visit.

Uzbekistan Premier Sends Message to Crown Prince

LD1807175689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1628 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 18 (KUNA)—His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah Wednesday received a message from the prime minister of Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan.

The message was delivered to the undersecretary of H.H. Diwan Abi Latif al-Bahr [name as received] today by the Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev.

Oman

Sudanese Official Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1807162289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, arrived in the country today on a visit of several days to the Sultanate.

In a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, Al-Zubayr said he was carrying a written message for His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation. He added that the message explains that the revolution in Sudan is aimed at saving Sudan from the deteriorating situation on both the political and economic levels.

Regarding the situation in Sudan, the deputy chairman of the Sudanese Revolutior Command Council for National Salvation said that security is stable and that the quick response from the Armed Forces and the masses has led to effective measures to save Sudan.

Regarding negotiations on the south, Al-Zubayr said that initiatives have been launched as a first step toward declaring a truce. He added that it is vital to continue to relieve the south and the victims of the war from Sudan, Kenya, and Uganda. He said that the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation has sent a message to the [Sudanese People's Liberation] movement through the Ethiopian authorities and that a quick and positive reply is expected.

PDRY

Somali Official Departs After Talks

EA1607213089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] (Brother Ahmad Mohammad Adan), the permanent secretary of the Somali Foreign Ministry, left Aden this evening at the end of his visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. During his visit, which lasted several days, he held talks with Foreign Ministry officials on relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of strengthening and developing them. Matters of common interest were also discussed. He was seen off at the airport by brothers (Dr Shayl Muhsin), member of the Central Committee and deputy foreign minister, (Awad Abdallah Mashbah), our ambassador in Somalia, a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry, and the Somali ambassador in Aden.

Qatar

New Cabinet Sworn In Before Amir 19 Jul

JN1907111689 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Members of the New Qatari Council of Ministers took the constitutional oath before Qatari Amir His Highness Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani today as a sign of officially assuming their ministerial posts.

Following this, the Council of Ministers moved to its headquarters at the Amiri Court, where the Qatari amir addressed the first meeting of the new council. In his speech, the amir pointed out that the current stage of national action necessitates that everyone work sincerely and deligently.

Saudi Arabia

Pilgrimage Minister Denies Raising Iran's Quota

LD1507234189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2238 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Holy Mecca, 15 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency Mr 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Wasi, the minister of pilgrimage affairs and awqaf, has pointed out that the dialogue between his excellency and an Iranian delegation, which was published today (Saturday) by the Egyptian paper AKHBAR AL-YAWM, contains some inaccuracies in the part that refers to the number of pilgrims.

In a statement to SPA, His Excellency affirmed that the negotiations that took place between his excellency and an Iranian delegation were confined to the limits set by the resolution of the 17th conference of Islamic foreign ministers relating to limiting the numbers of pilgrims. This limitation was issued unanimously in support of the memorandum put forward by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which includes our new plans, programs, and projects for expanding the two holy mosques, as well as for developing and improving housing for pilgrims.

His excellency the minister of pilgrimage affairs and awqaf again denied that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had offered to the Iranian side a quota exceeding the one already allocated to Iran. He also stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was committed to the resolution on quotas of pilgrims and could in no way exceed it.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Approves Additional Anti-AIDS Measures

JN1707185589 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 11 Jul 89 p 7

[Text] All blood donors in the United Arab Emirates will be given compulsory tests to ascertain that they are completely free from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

This was one among a series of measures adopted by the UAE Health Minister, Hamad al-Madfah to fight the killer disease AIDS. Yesterday, the minister approved additional anti-AIDS measures to buttress the already existing national programme which contained a number of preventive measures to counteract the spread of the killer disease.

As per the terms of the new measures, no imports of blood, its derivatives or any drugs containing blood will be permitted into the country without the prior approval of the Ministry of Health.

The programme also restricted the use of blood, its derivatives or drugs containing blood only in cases of utmost necessity.

The new programme also enforces compulsory tests on all expatriates arriving to take up employment in the UAE. The programme also requires expatriates already in the country to appear for AIDS scanning each time they apply to renew their residence permits.

AIDS high-risk groups and other sections threatened by the disease will have to be tested at regular intervals, the timing of which will be determined by the Central Preventive Committee and will be executed by sub-committees in various areas.

Further, in line with the new measures AIDS patients who die will have to be buried only under the supervision of the Preventive Medical Department and that all necessary measures must be taken to protect persons carrying out the burial. The body of a dead AIDS patient can not be taken outside the country without a court order. Further, the deceased should be carried in the presence of a representative from the Preventive Medical Department.

The programme also formed a permanent Central Preventive Committee for combating AIDS. The duties of the committee will be to supervise, follow up, evaluate and carry out the national programme and the anti-AIDS strategy. It will also work out methods for testing people. The committee will have the right to suggest amendments on the programme and the strategy. It will directly supervise the conducting of the AIDS tests and the laboratories carrying them.

UAE health minister issued a decision forming the committee. It will be chaired by the Health Ministry under secretary, Dr Sa'ud al-Qasimi. The committee will have to issue a guide for the preventive measures that should be followed inside laboratories, clinics, hospitals and the disease control centres, in order to protect their employees from the disease.

UAE health minister said that the UAE started the anti-AIDS national programme in 1985. The new measures are designed to give the programme an official status in order to protect society from the AIDS threat.

He added that since the launching of the programme, the Health Ministry carried out AIDS tests on over a million persons who came to work, or donated blood and those who have been admitted to hospitals. He added that the ministry is planning to cover most of the UAE population in its programme during the coming two years.

Iranian Government Blamed for Qasemlu's Death

NC1407192289 Paris AFP in English 1813 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 14 (AFP)—The largest Iranian opposition group accused Tehran on Friday of assassinating Iranian Kurdish leader 'Abdorrahman Qasemlu and two of his associates Thursday night in Vienna.

"These hideous murders have undoubtedly been committed by (the late Iranian spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeyni's regime," said a communique signed by Mas'ud Rajavi, head of the Baghdad-based People's Mojahedin.

Mr Qasemlu, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan [DPIK], his deputy, 'Abdollah Qaderiazar and an Iraqi Kurd, Fadel Rasul were gunned down Thursday night in a Vienna apartment.

A fourth man, described as a Kurd with an Iranian diplomatic passport, was wounded in the face but police said his life was not in danger.

The Mojahedin communique cited Iranian media reports as saying the attack occurred as Mr Qasemlu met an Iranian Government representative to discuss the possibility of being granted immunity.

"To our utmost regret, Mr Qasemlu has thus finally fallen victim to negotiations," said the communique, which added that the Mojahedin had repeatedly warned the Kurdish leader against approaching the Tehran regime.

The DPIK joined the Iranian National Resistance Council alongside the Mojahedin in the early 1980's, but Mr Rajavi excluded the Kurdish group in 1985 after Mr Qasemlu refused to sign a statement ruling out all contacts with the Tehran government.

Kurdish Party Condemns Murders

AU1707112489 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 17 Jul 89 p 4

[Sissy Danninger report: "Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq: Rejection of International Terrorism"]

[Excerpt] The Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq (KDP-Iraq) also sharply condemned the crime [killing of three Kurds in Vienna on 13 Jul] and stressed its shock in a statement signed by its president, Mas'ud Barzani. (Years ago, there were armed fights between the KDP-Iraq and Qasemlu's Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, but they stopped almost 5 years ago).

In addition, Barzani's statement stresses the basic rejection of international terrorism. Attacks abroad have never been a means for them to implement the Kurds' national and democratic rights, although Kurds themselves are victims of organized terror—also of the use of chemical weapons. "Whoever committed these crimes wanted to frustrate the establishment of ties between the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran," the statement concludes. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Iran, ACC, Other Issues

JN1807191289 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 14 Jul 89 pp 28-31

[Interview with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Sana' al-Sa'id; date, place not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] In light of the upcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries in Amman, I would like to know whether the ACC is a continuation of the strategic alliance that was established during the Gulf war. Why do you not describe it as a political entity—although that is what it actually is—because without the agreement between the political views of the four states [Iraq, Egypt, the Yemen Arab Republic, and Jordan], they would not have come together in one grouping?

['Aziz] The last part of the question sheds light on the nature of the ACC and the circumstances which led to its establishment. Economic cooperation in various economic domains is an essential issue. We must admit that we failed to establish a comprehensive system of Arab cooperation within the framework of the Arab League. This was caused by many factors which cannot be dealt with in one interview. What is the alternative? Should we continue to work as separate countries in a world that is forming groups and blocs, solving its economic problems collectively, and establishing foundations for progress and development? Or should we continue to wait for a comprehensive solution which, even then, might not be attainable soon?

Hence, there has been the desire to establish the ACC by a number of Arab countries that believe in this objective and seriously seek to implement it. They have gained experience over the years in bilateral cooperation. But how did these four countries manage to reach a joint understanding and a definite commitment? How did they manage to achieve successful long-term bilateral relations? They could not have done that without a joint political agreement. No strategic results on such a scale can be reached without political agreement. We have not sought trade exchange without something deeper. Sometimes, large scale trade exchange between countries may not be based on political understanding or agreement, but trade exchange in these cases has nothing underlying it, regardless of its financial significance.

What our four states did is more than that. For example, when Jordan's ports were placed at Iraq's disposal in its military-economic effort during the Iranian aggression, it was not a matter of trade exchange. Nor is it a matter of trade exchange when one million Egyptians live in Iraq during the years of the Iranian aggression, to work

in industry, agriculture, and in services. They worked just like the Iraqi citizens while the Iraqi men bore arms to defend their homeland, which is part of the Arab homeland. This is not a trade exchange. It is not at all like the travel of an Egyptian to West Germany to work and transfer hard currency.

[Al-Sa'id] Then one can say that the ACC is an extension of the strategic alliance among the four countries, an alliance which existed during the war?

['Aziz] I do not want to use the word alliance because this word is usually misinterpreted. What I would like to say is that the four Arab leaderships agree on the most important political issues the Arab nation faces. They had a similar concept of the Iranian aggression, and there is similarity in their views concerning the Palestinian cause, the threats against pan-Arab security, and the importance of Arab solidarity. They also agree on the need to refrain from interfering in domestic affairs and on not resorting to the working methods that prevailed in the fifties and sixties which caused divisions, estrangements, and feuds.

All this constitutes a common political visualization that could form a single political course and a joint political action. Thus, we would not be forced to call it an alliance, axis, or any other name that we in the ACC abhor; that is not one of the objectives we seek. Let us take Lebanon, for example: There is agreement in their views on the Lebanese issue. This agreement is based not on hatred of this or that party but on a positive and constructive stand with respect to how the state of affairs in the region and relations among the Arab countries should be. From this premise, I would like to affirm that any attempt to dissociate the nature of the ACC from the nature of the political concept that binds the ACC countries is a fabricated attempt and is not compatible with reality.

[Al-Sa'id] Are there signs presaging the building of confidence between Iraq and Iran? Could the present state of affairs in Iran contribute to its adoption of more moderate policies, particularly after President Saddam Husayn's recent declaration emphasizing that Iraq has every intention of achieving peace?

['Aziz] Even during the war, Iraq continued to call for a comprehensive and lasting peace based on international law and mutual respect for sovereignty. This Iraqi call has not changed. What President Saddam said in his recent declaration on the occasion of the reconstruction of al-Faw is only a reaffirmation of this constant Iraqi stand. We have no interest in perpetuating the conflict with Iran. Our stand has always consisted of defending ourselves against Iranian aggression, even during the splendid victories we scored on the battlefield. These victories without question were of a defensive nature against Iran's expansionist designs and aggression. When you ask me whether Iran will now respond to the peace calls, this is something I cannot answer. We in Iraq are not the only ones who cannot give you a reply on this. This question perplexes many observers and analysts. To reply to this question, one must be extremely conversant with the state of affairs in Iran and with how the Iranian leadership will behave. Will it proceed to organize its relations with Iraq and its neighbors on the bases of peaceful coexistence, good neighborliness, respect for sovereignty, and noninterference in domestic affairs? We have no answer to this question because the Iranian leadership has not yet defined its options. In only 1 year, two important events took place in Iran: The first is its military defeat, the failure of its program of military expansion, and its being forced to accept the cease-fire. The second is Khomeyni's death. Will these two important events bring about a basic change in Iran, or will the nature of the Iranian regime remain unchanged until the effects of these two events are overcome? No one can reply to this question at the present time.

[Al-Sa'id] Resolution 598, to which Iran agreed in July of last year, remains frozen. The reason is the falter in negotiations. I wonder whether this means that you are still in a state of war from the practical point of view.

['Aziz] To be precise, and for this precision to befit our goals, we consider the war as having ended because the Iranian expansionist program was destroyed last year. Iran was forced to accept Resolution 598 for this reason. If Iran decided to resume the war, we believe that this would be another war. It would not be a continuation of the first war. However, seen from the legal aspect and in the final analysis—in my capacity as foreign minister—I have to say that the situation between Iran and Iraq could be described as no war and no peace, since two neighboring countries that have long been at war will reach an agreement or treaty to put in order the relations between them. Until we reach this agreement or that treaty, the situation remains that of no war and no peace. The treaty—the treaty of peace and good neighborliness—is alone the one that will end this situation practically and legally and change it to a situation of peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Is diverting the Shatt al-'Arab course and digging a new canal still possible despite what the observers said—that it is difficult and very expensive, if not impossible—apart from the fact that it will create a legal obstacle since Iran has navigational rights in the southern half?

['Aziz] One of the basic traits of the Iraqi leadership is that it always looks for alternatives when there is a problem. We were hoping to proceed in opening the Shatt al-'Arab for navigation immediately after the cease-fire. We asked the UN secretary general to deal with this task himself since he is a neutral party. We said that the UN secretary general could take on this task without touching the legal situation of the Shatt al-'Arab. Iran did not agree and insisted on imposing conditions on Iraq. These were that Iraq agree to return to the Algiers agreement of 1975 as a condition to clear the Shatt al-'Arab and make it navigable. We refused. I said

frankly at the talks in Geneva: Cleaning the Shatt al-'Arab is a technical operation that cannot be muddled up with the legal issues of the Shatt al-'Arab. Second, clearing the Shatt al-'Arab is in the interest of both sides because both use it for navigational purposes. Therefore, practically, Iran cannot impose conditions on Iraq to realize this goal, because it will benefit by about 50 percent, just as we would. Why should I accept conditions on a process which has equal benefit for both parties? However, Iran insisted on its stand, which is an insistence of a provocative nature. We do not submit to blackmail. We always present alternatives that make the other party feel that if it insists on a wrong stand, it will lose in the end. We can divert the course of the Shatt al-'Arab. This is possible. It is not an impossibility; as is said, nothing is impossible in life. In this issue specifically, this is a very feasible project. It could create many expenses, but they are not beyond Iraq's capacity. We keep this project in our hands as a reserve. If we succeed in the peace negotiations and if the Iranians agree to clear the Shatt al-'Arab at the request of the UN secretary general and to return navigation to normal, then so be it. However, if the Iranians insist on depriving Iraq of using this navigational pass, then Iraq can provide an alternative pass. They are the losers, because killing the Shatt al-'Arab leads to killing two important Iranian ports. Iraq can go out to sea by an alternative route which provides work for its traditional ports on the Shatt al-'Arab.

[Al-Sa'id] Improvement of relations between Iran and the Gulf states to attain a balance may sound useful for Baghdad at a time when the subject of peace seems long and extremely exhaustive.

['Aziz] Actually, I do not see a substantial development in relations between Iran and the Gulf states. From what we see, hear, and follow up regarding relations and contacts, we trace nothing that we may call development or improvement of relations during the year that followed the cease-fire; there are much fewer hostile, provocative Iranian actions than before. We must return to the two events to which I referred. These are Iran's military defeat and Khomeyni's death and the Iranian leaders' preoccupation with domestic problems. What is the future of relations? I cannot answer this question, too. It is clear that relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran remain as they were for months. Ambiguity shrouds Iranian policy in general, including Iran's stand toward the Arabian Gulf states.

[Al-Sa'id] If this applies to the Arab states, it does not apply to the Western states. I wonder whether you feel that the West has let Iraq down in the race to develop relations with Iran as an important strategic gain in the Gulf.

['Aziz] We do not regard these stands as disappointing. The West has not been our ally, so we cannot interpret its stands as disappointing. The West seeks its own interests, and we are aware of that. Sometimes the West's interests converge with ours and sometimes they do not, whether with Iraq or the Arab countries in general. We understand the facts of the age and deal with them objectively. There were some Western quarters that were strongly attracted toward Iran, imagining that there was a grand prize in Iran. They competed to win this prize, but soon discovered that they were wrong in their calculations. They discovered they were wrong in labeling rulers in Iran as moderates and extremists—labels which we told them were silly. They discovered that the rulers of Iran are similar—as is said in Egyptian dialect—and there is no difference among them. They then discovered that the economic, governmental, and administrative situation in Iran was chaotic, and they did not know how to streamline relations in the absence of a political vision, plans, and organs that follow up the implementation. They went there and found a state of chaos, confusion, contradictory options, and diverse positions of responsibility. They did not find the prize. They then quarrelled with Iran for continuing its policy of terrorism and instigating disturbances and instability in the world.

Therefore, the Western states are waiting to see how matters in Iran will unfold. We used to tell the West and East at all times, even at the time of war: We do not object to establishing normal relations with Iran because this is what we wish for the entire world. There should be normal relations in the world. We do not object to economic and cultural cooperation, but be careful not to give Iran moral and material support that could be later used to exercise its aggressive policies whether against Iraq, the countries of the region, or the world. Be careful against doing this. To be accurate and objective, many did not heed that and rushed toward their narrow selfish interests, and in certain cases they gave Iran such moral and material support that enabled it to inflict harm on us and the Arabs and sometimes on them themselves.

[Al-Sa'id] How do you view your relations with the United States and the West, especially Britain, which, together with the United States, led a campaign of distortion against you by accusing you of using chemical weapons and manufacturing bacteriological weapons? They also concentrated on the issue of the Kurds as a problem you have failed to solve and that you are trying to end the problem by annihilating the Kurds—a campaign which was viewed as a move of grudge and hatred to weaken Iraq's negotiating position with Iran and to cover up Israel's practices in the region.

['Aziz] There are two sides of Iraqi-U.S. relations. The first is economic relations, which are satisfactory. There is growth in economic and trade relations, and we are eager to continue and promote them. The second is political relations, which witness some differences. We held a useful dialogue with the United States on the situation in the region, and there was a good deal of mutual understanding. But circles in the administration, Congress, and the press sometimes try to harm Iraq and damage its reputation by launching the campaigns you

have just mentioned. We resist and expose these campaigns and explain our real positions to the objective and understanding Americans in the administration, Congress, and the press. At the same time, we reply to these tendentious people who continue their campaign despite the facts we explain to them. As Arabs, we have a certain experience which we should not forget. This experience is that the United States is dominated by the big role which Zionism plays in U.S. policy and information on the Middle East. These Zionist tools want to damage U.S. relations with the Arabs in general and even with the Arab countries that maintain good relations with the United States. Examples of this are well known. Therefore, we are not surprised by these circles' feverish attempts to harm Iraq. However, we deal with this issue objectively. We reply when there is aggression or when fabricated allegations are published. We reply strongly and, at the same time, we hold dialogue to reach an objective understanding whenever we find the chance to do that.

[Al-Sa'id] Britain adopts a strange position toward Iraq. It still refuses to sell weapons to you so that the cease-fire will turn into a permanent settlement between you and Iran, as if you were an obstacle to such a settlement.

['Aziz] What I have just said about the United States applies to Britain. We maintain good economic relations, However, there is a considerable political misunderstanding and there are tendentious attempts by the British Foreign Office and mass media to harm Iraq.

[Al-Sa'id] One of the distortion campaigns being launched by the West concerns the Kurds. This campaign used to portray Iraq as a country waging a war of extermination against them and say that Iraq evicted the city dwellers, who were forced to accept a forcible resettlement. Have the Kurds continued to represent a problem as reported by the Western news media?

['Aziz] Our London embassy has recently issued, on the instructions of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, a statement explaining the facts pertaining to the issue. Due to the bitter experience of the war, because the border cities and villages were exposed to Iranian shelling, and because the residents of these areas were subjected to terrorism and blackmail by the agents who collaborated with Iran and by external forces, the Iraqi Government decided to establish a 30 km-deep security belt along the Iraqi-Iranian and Iraqi-Turkish borders. The decision was that there should be no cities, villages, or population centers in this 30 km-deep area. This decision concerns al-Sulaymaniyah, al-Basrah, Dahuk, Maysan, Irbil, Diyala, and Wasit. The Iraqi-Turkish and Iraqi-Iranian border areas are areas in which Arabs and Kurds reside. All of these residents were evicted to 30 km within Iraqi territory. What has the government done? The government has built modern housing complexes beyond the 30 km-deep border area or near other population centers in the same region. I am referring here to modern houses, clinics, and roads. The government has also given farmers farmland, as well as an amount of money to enable them to have a new start in life. Recently and especially in Qal'at Dizah and other areas, we did not build for residents anything. We gave the residents of Qal'at Dizah large remunerations. Each house owner was granted 10,000 Iraqi dinars, an equivalent of $30,000, and was asked to choose the place in which he wanted to reside. Fifty-two percent of the residents have chosen to reside in al-Sulaymaniyah, while the remaining 48 percent of residents have chosen to reside in the Governorate of Irbil.

[Al-Sa'id] With the eviction order issued by the Iraqi Government, were the Kurds forced to settle in the southern region instead of the northern region, which has long been their natural and normal habitat?

['Aziz] Yes, there was a government order asking the Kurds to leave this region. However, we have not forced them to reside in specific areas. As for saying that the Kurds were moved to desert areas in the south, we categorically deny these reports. Such talk is ridiculous and without foundation. There can be no motive prompting the Iraqi Government to move a Kurdish citizen from al-Sulaymaniyah to al-Nasiriyah, as he will remain an Iraqi citizen enjoying the rights to elections, will participate in political life, to write in newspapers, and to occupy public positions. Besides, moving him from one place to another will not change anything. So why should we move him?

[Al-Sa'id] This means that there is no such thing as Kurdish problem?

['Aziz] The problem exists in the colonialist and Zionist circles, which want the conflict in the Arab homeland to continue, even if baseless. Just look at the handling of any issue. When any problem crops up, the first explanation to which they resort is the sectarian. They categorize him or explain his stand according to his sect, whether Sunni, Shi'ite, Christian, Kurd, or Arab. This is the first explanation that appears in the London and U.S. papers. It is a fabricated explanation. It has not been confirmed throughout scores of years. They have written scores, nay hundreds, of books, analyses, and articles that try to brand us with sectarianism and partitionism. However, they always find before them in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and other countries a people who are dedicated to the homeland. The Iraq-Iran war experience is the best evidence. To recapitulate what they wrote in 1980, 1981, 1982, what did they say? They said Khomeyni is the chief of the Shi'ites and will definitely triumph over Iraq because it has a percentage of Shi'ites. What is their result? The result invalidates such assumptions, which have been published by some Western media organs about the Kurdish issue. The reference here is to these assumptions we pointed out.

[Al-Sa'id] Military relaxation could be a natural occurrence after a long war like the one you waged. Could one say that it is a policy under implementation in Iraq after waving peace as a possible alternative and demobilizing 200,000 soldiers?

['Aziz] There is no military relaxation in Iraq. Demobilizing this number of Iraqi soldiers and disbanding the special I Army Corps does not mean military relaxation. It means that the Iraqi Armed Forces with the number of individuals they have left, are in a stronger qualitative, quantitative, and training position than they were at the time of the cease-fire. If in the future you hear about disbanding another group of military men, set your mind at ease with the fact that the Iraqi Armed Forces have become stronger than the day they were formed. This is a strategic key decision taken by the leader Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership. Iraq will remain militarily fully ready and capable of responding to any attack in a shattering way greater and more effective than its response during the past 8 years. This is an indisputable fact.

[Al-Sa'id] On the other hand, Iran is arming and rallying forces. In fact, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent Moscow visit aimed in the first place to get arms. It is said that the Soviet Union promised to grant Iraq 150 MiG-29 planes.

['Aziz] Yes, Iran is arming itself. It is searching for weapons in all markets. Hashemi-Rafsanjani went to Moscow and actually did get arms. We do not yet know the details of the deal, but we will find out. On this occasion, we must say what President Saddam Husayn said in his latest call: If Iran believes that through arming itself from the Soviet Union or elsewhere it will tip the military balance between it and Iraq, it is deluding itself. It is wasting its money and effort. The military balance between Iraq and Iran will remain steady for a long time to come. If Iran adds one piece to its arsenal, it will find that in Iraq, there is a great deal more in quality and quantity. Tipping the balance in a way that enables Iran to realize its expansionist goals has become an impossible issue.

However, we have to say that those who are supplying Iran with weapons are making a big mistake and contributing wittingly or unwittingly to jeopardizing security and stability in the region, as they are encouraging the Iranian leadership in its pursuit of a mistaken policy. What Iran needs after 8 years of war is bread, work, the rebuilding of demolished houses, and developing the economy; Iran is not being threatened. Hence, he who says that he is supplying Iran with defensive weapons is not giving a convincing explanation. I would like to pose the question: Who is threatening Iran? As for Iraq, it desires to establish peace. As for the USSR, how can it threaten Iran at a time when it is supplying it with weapons? This means that the USSR does not intend to pose a threat to Iran. As for Turkey, it does not have any plans against Iran. Regarding Afghanistan, it is weaker than Iran. As for the Gulf states, they are smaller than Iran and consequently pose no threat to Iran. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it does not have plans targeting Iran. Hence, who is threatening Iran and prompting it to purchase defensive weapons? This is a manifestation of a worrisome policy, as it is an extension of the expansionist and aggressive policy which has characterized Iran's behavior during the Khomeyni era.

[Al-Sa'id] What about your weapons? Have the Soviets continued to be your main arms supplier, particularly as you are dealing with other countries in this regard, such as France, Brazil, and the PRC?

['Aziz] The Iraqi arms suppliers have remained unchanged, even during the war years. Those from whom we purchased arms during the war are the same from whom we purchased arms before the outbreak of the war. The countries you have mentioned had relations with Iraq in this sphere. However, we must say that the intrinsic Iraqi military capability has largely developed during the war years. If you ask me about Iraq's main arms supplier right now, I would answer by saying that Iraq itself is its own arms supplier.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the truth pertaining to the reports saying that FRG firms are helping Egypt, Iraq, and Argentina to develop the Condor-2 missile in a joint venture?

['Aziz] We have missiles that we have manufactured and used. Therefore, there can be no reason prompting us to spend large amounts of money to produce types of weapons that are inferior to the weapons that we have manufactured, as our weapons are also better than those being talked about.

[Al-Sa'id] As for the ties with Turkey, what about its huge irrigation projects, which might reduce the volume of water flowing in both the Euphrates and the Tigris? Specifically, I am asking about the projects involving the building of a string of dams on the two rivers. Has the issue pertaining to the distribution of water quotas been discussed?

['Aziz] This issue has been a topic under discussion for many long years by Turkey, Iraq, and Syria. Syria's stand, its severance of ties with Iraq, and the closure of its borders with Iraq—the well-known Syrian stands—have been a substantial hindrance obstructing the attainment of a good solution by the three countries.

We have not reached an agreement so far. And there are differences on the water quotas to be allocated to these three countries. We hope that we will be able to reach a negotiated solution to these differences through a multilateral understanding of the intrinsic interests of the three countries—a solution that would take into account Iraq's historical rights, especially concerning the waters of the Euphrates and the Tigris.

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding the Lebanese crisis, the United States does not want to antagonize Syria. Consequently, the United States does not want to force Syria or Israel to withdraw their forces from Lebanon, contending that the troop withdrawal will not solve the problem. What is your perspective on this issue? Is there an alternative for troop withdrawals?

['Aziz] The Lebanese problem cannot be solved as long as the Israeli occupation, the Syrian presence, and the Iranian presence are maintained on Lebanese territory. This is an impossible task. How can a country exercise a free decisionmaking process and rehabilitate its national institutions to enable them to play their roles in full in the presence of foreign occupation troops?

How can the commander of any army organize his national forces at a time when Israeli and Syrian armed forces are present? How can the chief of the Social Security provide the citizens with security when there are Iranian militias messing around in the southern suburb of Beirut and Ba'labak? The only solution is withdrawal; there is no alternate solution. How can the Lebanese Government, regardless of its president—whether al-Huss, 'Awn, or any other person—administer the state, impose security, and realize stability with the presence of Israeli forces occupying a part of Lebanon, 40,000 Syrian soldiers, and a few thousand Iranian gangs? How? Therefore, without the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, for which the ACC called, there is no serious solution. The solution will remain superficial and formal until Syria and all other forces leave Lebanon so that issues will not explode. The United States knows that putting pressure on the Syrians to leave Lebanon will inevitably also mean putting pressure on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. It seems that it does not want to perform its role and responsibilites of putting pressure on Israel, neither in what concerns the West Bank nor Gaza nor Lebanon. Then, so long as its Israeli friends feel comfortable in Lebanon, then let discussions with the Syrians be moderate and let it dodge Arab and international pressure so that they will not withdraw because these withdrawals will, in the end, undoubtedly link up in one way or another. This is what the U.S. Administration wants to avoid. The U.S. stand is not objective. We have to say this frankly. It shuts up about the Syrian presence in Lebanon because, to say the least, it does not want to turn over the Israeli occupation of Lebanon page.

[Al-Sa'id] Since the beginning of this year, President Saddam Husayn has talked about formulating a new constitution allowing the establishment of political plurality in Iraq since it is a vital necessity. To what extent are steps moving in this direction now? Is the time ripe for formulating political reforms? Do you not fear opposition?

['Aziz] Yes, the time is very ripe. President Saddam Husayn, with his piercing vision and futuristic outlook, believes—and so do we—that the time has come to reformulate political life in Iraq in accordance with the needs and demands of the present and the future.

We are actually working on a new constitution and formulation of laws and new measures to organize the new political life in Iraq.

We are now in the process of study and discussion, and then comes implementation. We do not fear the opposition in Iraq because the rule is popular and supported by the people. Even if the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party runs in parliamentary elections along the lines of the American liberal way, we are confident that the vast majority would enable us to continue leading the country.

No 'Honor' Seen in 'Whitewash' of Likud Platform

TA1807152089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The political quote of the day: Whoever removes the braces approved by the Likud Central Committee is the real opposition. Thus said Minister Levi, blaming Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The peace initiative has reached a deadlock, and there is no other partner beside the PLO, with whom we must not talk.

Minister Levi addressed a group of Knesset members from the Likud and the right-wing parties who call themselves the Eretz Yisra'el Front. Moshe Kohen reports on the meeting:

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi today launched a frontal attack on the prime minister's close associates, and even the prime minister himself, over the braces the Likud Central Committee attached to the peace initiative, and the attempts to overcome the government crisis.

[Begin Levi recording] I am not prepared for a situation to be created whereby the prime minister's close associates—I do not know whether with his knowledge—threaten their fellow ministers with sanctions for being loyal to their party's positions. Such a situation cannot be possible. [end recording]

Minister Levi also sharply attacked the attempt to solve the government crisis by bringing up for the prime minister's reply an agreed upon query by Minister Arye Der'i on the continued validity of the peace initiative. This solution has not satisfied Shim'on Peres.

[Begin Levi recording] I do not believe that if we whitewash the Likud platform by an invited query, the formulation of which is composed by those involved, and the response and approval of which is prepared beforehand, it would be a certificate of honor for the two parties sitting at the same cabinet table and sharing responsibility for the central and basic issue of our existence. [end recording]

The peace initiative itself, David Levi said, is deadlocked because there is no negotiating party among the Arabs of the territories.

[Begin Levi recording] If no partner can be found there—and we tell the whole world that those we meet from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are not partners because they fear for their lives—then the entire initiative was an illusion from the start. [end recording]

Minister Levi again warns that if the intifadah [uprising] is not uprooted, Eretz Yisra'el will sink politically. The intifadah is declining and any declaration of a linkage between the political initiative and the uprooting of the intifadah only fuels it. [sentence as heard]

Shamir Office Denies Threats, Division in Likud

TA1807185089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The Prime Minister's Bureau has reacted to Minister Levi's remarks by saying that neither the prime minister nor any of his associates has threatened any Likud member. There is no fundamental issue over which the Likud is divided, and no one talks about rescinding the Likud Central Committee resolutions, which—according to the Prime Minister's Bureau—endorsed the Cabinet's decision on the peace initiative.

Rabin Voiced Dissatisfaction With Der'i Query

TA1807153889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Labor Party leaders are continuing to meet on the issue of whether to quit the government. Minister Rabin told a meeting of Labor Party Knesset members who belong to the mainstream group, and who are known as hawks, that a cabinet vote in response to a query by Minister Der'i does not satisfy him.

He said, however, that the Labor Party Bureau's decision to secede from the government was not understood properly since it said: Under the present conditions—that is, the conditions prevailing 10 days ago, which have now changed.

Knesset members who support quitting the government, known as Force 17, met this afternoon and decided to demand the convening of the Labor Party Bureau before Sunday's cabinet meeting in order to receive clarifications from Labor ministers on whether they have new information which they did not possess at the time of the bureau's meeting 10 days ago.

Today at noon, Labor Party Secretary General Mikha Harish called on Labor ministers not to agree to the compromise proposal on the political initiative when it is raised at Sunday's cabinet meeting. He said the only proof of the dismantling of the braces proposed by Sharon and adopted by the Likud is real progress in the peace initiative.

Shamir Meets Gazan; Al-Husayni Denies Report

TA1907082989 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jul 89 p A2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday met with a Palestinian public figure from a famous Gaza family and discussed the details and stages of the Israeli peace initiative. The meeting was held at a hotel in the Jerusalem area and was kept secret for fear that if the man's name is made public he would be murdered by Palestinian supporters of the terrorist organizations.

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[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebre
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Key Palestinians Organizing '
TA1807190689 Jerusalem Televis
1800 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Senior Palestinian figure
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Our Arab affairs correspondent
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No Response to Egypt's Electi
TA1907091789 Jerusalem THE J
in English 19 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspon

[Excerpt] Israel has no intention
to the 10 questions on the pro

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on 5 July].

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'Political Team'
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ion Queries Planned
JERUSALEM POST

ident Menahem Shalev]

of formally responding
posed elections in the
territories submitted by Egypt several weeks ago, officials in Jerusalem said last night.

"The questions were never conveyed formally," a senior official said, reflecting Jerusalem's displeasure with President Husni Mubarak's repeated use of American congressmen as carriers of official messages between Jerusalem and Cairo, as opposed to the Israeli Embassy in the Egyptian capital.

Mubarak's 10 questions—or conditions—were conveyed to Jerusalem through Congressman William Gray. Several weeks earlier, Mubarak sent his first message following the Casabalanca summit through Senator Dennis DeConcini.

Other officials noted, however, that the government would be incapable of responding to the Egyptian queries—which include the participation of East Jerusalem residents in the elections, as well as Israeli acceptance of the peace for territories formula—even if they came through official channels.

Jerusalem also suspects that the Egyptian questions were formulated in coordination with the PLO.

Reports reaching Jerusalem indicate that in their Paris meeting last week, President George Bush told Mubarak that he would be sending a presidential emissary to the Middle East. But Bush did not specify who the emissary would be or when he would come. [passage omitted]

Shamir Requests Meeting With Mubarak in Egypt
TA1907070189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0630 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir requests a meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Egyptian soil. The request was delivered in a verbal message sent through Interior Minister Der'i, who is currently visiting Egypt. Der'i is scheduled to meet with President Mubarak today. Der'i will also meet with the former chief rabbi of Egypt.

Jordan To Finance Industrial Projects in Gaza
JN1507122089 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Our correspondent Yum Benahem has learned that the welfare committee in Gaza chaired by Mansur al-Shawwa will receive 100,000 dinars from the Industrial Development Bank in Jordan to establish numerous small industrial projects in Gaza. Al-Shawwa was able, during his recent visit to Jordan, to obtain approximately 70,000 dinars allocated by the Jordanian Government to be paid on a retroactive basis to government employees.

Disturbances, Casualties in Territories Reported

5 Injured in Incidents

TA1807193589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Five people were injured in disturbances of the public order in Judaea and Samaria: four in the Tulkarm area, and another in Ramallah. In Gaza, two locals who were beaten by a group of masked individuals on suspicion of collaborating with the Israeli authorities were brought to al-Shifa' Hospital. They are reported to be in fair condition.

Apart from this incident, relative quiet prevailed in Gaza today, with most laborers leaving for work in Israel as usual, now that the Muslim holiday is over. Our correspondent Dan Scemama reports:

[Begin recording] The Shaja'iyah neighborhood in the eastern part of Gaza has been quiet since yesterday morning. This was the site of many riots. But, as IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers have explained, when terrorists are penalized following an attack, the population understands that the punishment was justified and does not react. Today, 1 day after the demolition of the homes of the two terrorists who murdered the contractor from Gan Yavne, relatives, friends, and neighbors huddled quietly by the debris. The demolition of a house is perceived as a heavy penalty, the IDF officers claim, but it is effective and serves as a deterrent.

The curfew was lifted from all the neighborhoods and refugee camps throughout the Gaza Strip today. Large units of IDF soldiers patrolled the streets and alleys, showing their presence. In addition to the units we have grown accustomed to seeing patrolling the city—from the Golani Brigade, the Giv'ati Brigade, the paratroopers, and the Border Police—soldiers from an Air Force antiaircraft unit have also begun assuming these duties. The regional IDF officers claim that the blue berets too are doing a serious and good job here.

At the Erez roadblock, large numbers of laborers departed for work in Israel today. At the same time and at the same place, the Civil Administration continued to issue the certificates permitting entry into Israel for work. Despite the terrorist organizations' threats, approximately 1,000 persons arrive each day to obtain their permits. More than 50,000 Gaza Strip residents go to work in Israel daily. Approximately 50 percent of them have already received their entry permits. The campaign to issue these certificates will end in exactly 1 month. As of 18 August, no resident of the Gaza Strip will be allowed to enter Israel for work unless he bears such a permit. [end recording]

IDF Kills Arab Youth

TA1807201789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Bassam Faruq al-Jubri, aged 17 from Khan Yunus, was killed by soldiers this evening in the course of disturbances. Youths hurled rocks at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. The youth was known to the security forces as an active participant in disturbances.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Judaea and Samaria residents have reported 10 injured, plus 2 others in Gaza.

A Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine leaflet was disseminated in Jerusalem today. It rejects the Shamir plan and says that the right of return and the right to a sovereign state should not be relinquished. The leaflet praises the bus attack.

West Banker Killed in Attack

TA1907084689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] A resident of the village of Bayt Lid in the Tulkarm area was killed this morning during a violent confrontation with the security forces. The incident occurred during initiated operations in the Tulkarm area. One of the squads encountered violent resistance in the village of Bayt Lid. A villager was subsequently injured. An Army doctor tried to save his life, but his efforts were in vain and the youth died.

Palestinian Death Toll Updated

TA1907091989 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 19 Jul 89 p 10

[Text] On Sunday, 9 July, on the "Prior to Being Drafted" program broadcast on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said there were 540 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes those killed on suspicion of cooperating with the security forces and those killed by settlers.

On Monday, 17 July, the IDF spokesman reported 431 Palestinian fatalities. This figure includes only those killed by IDF gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 548.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 679 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:
—476 fatalities from IDF and settler gunfire.
—79 fatalities from asphyxiation.
—48 fatalities from beatings and by electrocution.
—76 fatalities from other causes.

More on Unrest Casualties

TA1907092589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday, troops shot and wounded 13 Palestinians in the territories, according to Palestinian sources.

There were sporadic clashes in the West Bank, most of them during raids by security forces seeking to make arrests.

Three Palestinians were shot and wounded in Bayt Lid and one in Kafr al-Labad, near Tulkarm, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said, adding that in Ramallah a Palestinian was shot and wounded during a clash with troops in one of the town's streets.

During a raid on Dayr Ballut, near Tulkarm, one person was hit by two bullets, according to Palestinian sources.

Bassam Abu-'Aysha, 25, of Bayt Wazan, was burnt Monday night and a bed in his home was set alight when soldiers opened fire indoors, according to Palestinian sources. The troops were in the village on a raid.

Another Palestinian was wounded in the Qalandiyah refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, according to Palestinian sources.

In the 'Askar refugee camp, near Nabulus, residents led by children holding Palestinian flags marched to the local cemetery. When troops arrived to disperse the gathering at the cemetery, a 17-year-old boy was shot and wounded in the leg, according to Palestinian sources.

In the Gaza Strip, some hours before al-Jabari was killed, three Palestinians were shot and wounded in separate clashes in Rafah and two in neighborhoods of Gaza, according to Gaza hospital reports.

Bakr 'Awadallah, 27, of the Jabalyah refugee camp was treated at al-Shifa' Hospital for bruises following a severe beating. Troops in the camp knocked over vegetable stands, said Palestinian sources, who could not give any reason for this action.

A suspected collaborator, Taysir Id, 39, of al-Nusayrat, was severely beaten by masked assailants, according to Palestinian sources. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 19 July in a Dani Rubinstein and ITIM report on page 1 quotes Hebron Arabs as saying that "a 10-month-old baby from the Tillah Khadr neighborhood was asphyxiated yesterday by inhaling tear gas during an incident in the area." The IDF spokesman was quoted as saying that "the IDF did not use tear gas at all in Hebron yesterday."]

Demonstrators Demand Release of 69 Detainees
JN1807112289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] In Amman, approximately 100 persons staged a sit-in in front of the Council of Ministers' building in the Jordanian capital today, calling for the release of 69 persons—their relatives—who were arrested during last April's riots.

A delegation representing the demonstrators conveyed a petition to a Council of Ministers official, demanding the release of the detainees.

King Husayn on Economy, Other Domestic Issues
JN1807151289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jul 89 p 6

[Interview with King Husayn by 'Uthman al-'Umayr, editor in chief of the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, in London; date not given]

[Text] [Al-'Umayr] Discussions of the health take a long time; even longer are discussions of the heart. However, Your Majesty, how is the health of the Jordanian heart?

I started the interview with this question on the lessons, examples, and stands learned from the events in Jordan, in particular what happened in the south of Jordan. His majesty answered the following:

[Husayn] The lessons are undoubtedly many. However, I feel comfortable about the situation due to the awareness of all the Jordanian people, their adherence to the policy I chose for their country with their participation throughout the long march, their sense of duty which they must continue performing on the confrontation lines of their great country, and the sense of duty instilled in them by the circumstances and experiences they have undergone from the point of view of credibility enjoyed by Jordan. This is the aim, might, and well-being of the Arabs.

There are some headings along the way, such as reconciliation and accord. There is also the great challenge facing Jordan and the nation in confronting the danger on the confrontation lines.

There is also the Palestine question and the duty to support our people and brothers until they gain their rights on their national soil, with God's help. It is also a duty that they receive support from their brothers in the Arab world, in which we play a big role.

As far as lessons are concerned, perhaps the most important, in fact, is one from which I personally benefited a great deal. For a certain period of time, I lost direct contact with the situation because I was doing all I could on the Arab world level to serve the Arab cause throughout the world.

Perhaps I was not totally informed of the particulars and details of the situation. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, of course, part of the problem is the circumstances we experienced in the region.

Thank God, Iraq, with the support of its brothers, managed to remain steadfast until the danger that, in my opinion, was threatening and targetting the Arab system, was removed. There were also the events experienced by the region, which left their mark. We were affected by these marks.

Another dimension is that we must be frank with the people about the facts—all the facts. If they are informed of all the details, they will be in a situation in which they can adapt, give, and offer what is needed so that the homeland is not endangered from near or far.

There is no doubt that circumstances dictated that I return and renew my contacts with everyone—the various generations in our country. In fact, I found the truth—praise be to God—which is the trust and love of all the country's sons as a result of working with and for them.

At the same time, a degree of awareness and vigilance made them all committed to cooperation and closeness of rank until we overcome the difficult and sensitive situation imposed upon us.

Concerning the details, I believe that the issue is not too different from the Palestine question and not too removed from Israel's intentions and goals. In Israel, whoever claims that the Palestine question is that of a people and that these people can retrieve their rights anywhere, specifically in Jordan, and whoever constantly tries to ignore the reality about the rights of these people on their national soil targets the situation from afar and burdens Jordan with great responsibilities in the way of armaments and development to face this conspiracy.

Jordan was naturally depending on its brothers' support.

This is on the one hand. On the other hand, during the past period, under the difficult circumstances experienced by our brothers and people in the occupied territories, they have been forced to use the dinar they have.

Israel also played a role in using this dinar against us. It collected this dinar and distributed it to the Gulf states through the West Bank. It came back to us, instead of the foreign currency we need.

In reality, we landed in a vicious circle. We were forced to use some of the reserves of our Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] assets at one point in time.

The concentrated campaign against the dinar affected the situation until it reached the stage it did. There are many opportunities before us. For example, the opportunities for importation before us are great. However, we need raw materials. We also need foreign currencies to buy these raw materials.

As a matter of fact, our main and basic objective is to stabilize the exchange rate of the dinar.

I believe that we are on the track that will lead us to the realization of this objective, God willing. There are deposits in the CBJ; these deposits will ensure its future independence and enable us to face up to this ferocious war.

In a related development, our program with the IMF has begun to take shape. During the coming 5 years, we will be able, God willing, to repay the debts, after having them rescheduled. At the same time, we will be able to achieve a minimum annual growth rate of 4 percent; this will enable us to cope with the population increase, which is viewed as one representing one of the highest ratios in the world. During this period, we will also consistently proceed toward the realization of this objective.

We hope that our brothers will support Jordan, considering that Jordan is an Arab country and asset and also that such support will help build a good future for us, for the Arab generations, and also for the Arab nation.

I hope that their support will not be stopped, especially under these difficult circumstances.

On the internal level, we, as a matter of course, said before the outbreak of the crisis that we seek to see parliamentary life restored to Jordan. We have great hopes that the Jordanian people and all those on Jordanian territory will exercise their right to elections.

[Al-'Umayr] Those carrying Jordanian passports, of course?

[Husayn] All those who have chosen to be Jordanian nationals have the right to take part in the elections, with the understanding that this will not undermine in any way whatsoever their rights regarding their cause. This used to be the case during the days of unity and before and after the disengagement of ties. This will continue to be the case. We are one family, and this is our reality.

The elections will take place, God willing. Besides, we are thinking of drafting a national charter based on ensuring respect for the Constitution. However, this charter would also place us in a position in which we would be able to learn from the wisdom, aspirations, and orientations of those who came before us in this greater homeland. That is, this nation is one nation. Besides, we must support our brothers, build, and serve with them so that the desired integration and cooperation based on piety, fear of God, and work can materialize to serve the interests of the coming generations, God willing.

There is no doubt that this is the correct thing to do. We went through harder times in the past and emerged triumphant. Our assets, once again, are the aware individual and our feeling that we must rise to the level of events and challenges.

Survival has never been our objective. No, our objective has always been to do something effective, as we must ensure the affection and sympathy of generations.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, you said that you detached yourself in the past from tackling domestic issues. Does this mean that you will more strongly assume the authorities of the prime minister during the forthcoming phase?

[Husayn] The options that I had when I returned home regarding tackling the situation were that of getting more directly involved in things or of choosing the option of detachment.

As a matter of fact, we have safeguarded the Constitution in honor of the pledge that we made when we assumed our powers. Therefore, I have chosen to form a new government. I have chosen cabinet ministers whom I believe are qualified and suitable for the job, who command the respect and trust of all, and who will be able to cooperate with all parties. Furthermore, we gathered around us a team that we believe represents Jordan's aspirations and shoulders responsibilities. The phase is a transitional one, not in terms of a move from a life with one parliament to that of another parliament. No, the transitional phase here also entails a move from an uncomfortable situation to a situation that we will try to make as good as possible. We will also reconsider everything, so that the outcome might be satisfactory. We will do our best so that we can rest fully assured about sound and proper stability.

[Al-'Umayr] In the letter of designation, you tackled the Jordanian press; this was a cause for comfort for the Arab news media. Besides, the fair treatment that you have accorded to the Jordanian pressmen has also been well received. Your Majesty the King, do you intend to reorganize the Jordanian press and cancel any measures?

[Husayn] Our dialogue with the press and pressmen has continued on the Jordanian, Arab, and international levels. You must have noted that this dialogue has recently witnessed an intensification. This dialogue will continue. We will do our best to support the press and the press community so that they can perform their duties and play their roles to help build and serve Jordan. We strongly hope that this role will be constructive and responsible, and also on the pan-Arab level, of course.

There are ideas, studies underway, and continuous dialogue designed to help us discuss everything. God willing, this might result in the promulgation of a new press law. Members of the press community will also contribute to the drafting of this law so that this law will spell out controls and produce solutions and so that they will be at ease regarding their performance.

[Al-'Umayr] What does Your Majesty mean by correction? Does this mean that this will deal with some violations practiced by the former government?

[Husayn] I cannot say that a government, specifically the former government, committed violations. However, we lived under certain circumstances since the Baghdad summit resolutions and the allocations decided to support Jordan. The size of Jordan's deficit or foreign debts were almost equivalent to the amounts that a number of our brothers in the Arab homeland pledged to pay to support Jordan in its steadfastness to face the challenge. The Saudi leaders fulfilled their commitments, some of our brothers contributed and met part of their commitments, and other brothers did not meet their commitments at all.

In light of this situation, we had to be alert and prepare ourselves in advance without looking at the assertions we received every now and then; namely, Jordan will not stand alone, as Israel does not stand alone, because it depends on continuous and stable support. And we are contrary to Israel in terms of intentions and objectives.

Regarding the corrective process, it is represented by tightening our belts as much as we can, arranging our priorities, and realizing that every individual realizes and knows exactly how to adjust to the new situation.

Since the outbreak of the crisis, I have been paying special attention to reviewing the tax system as a whole. In light of our experiment, we and our people can bear the burdens, provided that the distribution is fair.

Meanwhile, we must not close the door in the face of the people's creativeness, work, and production. We want to be reassured that a large number of our people are ready to assume their duties. I mean by this all sectors of the country. And I do not exclude the people who are outside the country. Every individual has to fulfill his commitments and present what he sees appropriate to serve his country and reinforce our march in a way that is satisfactory to everyone. We want to review everything.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, what is the form of the parliamentary system and the solid grounds of the parliament you have chosen in the coming parliamentary elections?

[Husayn] You are aware that Jordan has not held elections for a long time for known circumstances, including the June war. A new experiment will take place in the future. More representatives will be elected so that the House of Representatives will represent all parts of the country. And probably, the majority of the winners will be elected for the first time.

This is a new experiment. The powers of the House are known and defined in the Constitution. I was always concerned to see a situation in which the responsibilities are distributed. Therefore, I was always concerned to exercise this experience and lay it down as a basis for the future, God willing.

In light of the electoral law, there will be some restrictions. However, I am personally confident and content because those who will be elected will be from our best people.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, I noticed that you are pessimistic regarding Israel's reactions and the situation in general. How do you view this situation in light of these convictions?

[Husayn] Regarding Israel, I believe that it is clear that there is the extremist Israeli right wing. And I do not believe that I am exaggerating if I say that in recent years, the Israeli right wing was able to largely affect the decisionmakers in the United States. At that time, the responsibilities were focused in the hands of the U.S. Department of State and former Secretary of State George Shultz.

The situation now is different. Israel had its own objectives for resolving the Palestine question and the Palestinian territory. Therefore, the Jordanian option and the alternative homeland were proposed. And, if they can, they will try to achieve this.

On the other hand, whether this is the situation with regard to the United States, Europe, and others, or the entire world, Israel's inhumane practices against our kinfolk and brothers have become exposed and disgusting.

I believe the world is undergoing a stage in which it is trying to solve problems wherever they exist and whenever they threaten security and peace, whether on the regional or international level. Our region is one of the most dangerous areas of the world. Israel is a nuclear state and possesses weapons of mass destruction. Such weapons are available in the part of the world in which we are living. The world cannot agree to remain hostage of the extremism and shortsightedness of some. The issue is one of time and patience.

The picture basically changed with the intifadah [uprising], when the brothers rose to defend their right to a free, dignified life on their land and soil and offered and continue to offer sacrifices and martyrs and suffer a great deal. As for the extremists, they will continue to maintain their extremism until they are forced to change their course.

[Al-'Umayr] What should the Arab position be at present?

[Husayn] There should be more cooperation, cohesion, and integration. At the same time, there should be concentration on the fact that the Palestine question is the question of a people on their land and soil, and these people should regain their rights so that peace will prevail and future generations will be satisfied. There should be a solution to this problem, which is threatening to torpedo all the efforts being exerted to solve problems and remove the causes of tension.

[Al-'Umayr] Some say that resistance, or intifadah, could last longer if it were utilized by the Arabs. Is it true that it was not utilized?

[Husayn] In what sense?

[Al-'Umayr] By exerting larger real and intensive efforts on the international level.

[Husayn] In my opinion, efforts could be much further intensified. In any case, as far as we and a large number of our brothers are concerned, I think that the efforts are continuing and our struggle is largely increasing because we have a new fait accompli. There are other positive points. For instance, the situation returned to normal between Egypt and its Arab sisters. Egypt took its place among our brothers, and both cooperation and coordination between us and Egypt will clearly enable us to achieve all this in the service of the Palestine question.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, many spoke about the disengagement of legal links with the West Bank. How do you view that decision, and was it one of the reasons that led to the economic crisis in Jordan? Some quarters say many Palestinians withdrew their deposits or preferred not to transfer money to Jordan.

[Husayn] I do not think any of this is true. Our contacts with and aid to the occupied territory are continuing. I mentioned this because our kinfolk in the occupied territory were forced to use the dinar to satisfy their needs. Israel tried and to a large extent managed to tighten the siege around us. This is one of the reasons that made us suffer, because a large percentage of the Jordanian dinars was in the West Bank and Israel tried to withdraw them and take advantage of the circumstances and create an atmosphere of distrust in the dinar due to the people's circumstances and needs. It tried to withdraw dinars from the West Bank and send them to Jordan with the aim of creating further confusion.

What happened was the opposite. In my opinion, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship now is better than ever before. Suspicions and doubts about Jordan and its aims were eliminated. Serving the sons of the cause and the rightful owners of the land on the soil of the homeland will always be there.

The decision was wise and timely. It came in response to the wishes of our Palestinian kinfolk and brothers, who one day sought unity with us and who chose under certain circumstances and developments to have their own decision. Their decision is now in their own hands, and we support them with all our energies and capabilities. The ground is thus soundly paved for future building. It is a sound and solid ground based on confidence, which might have not been as available as it should.

We have not relinquished our responsibilities. Our responsibilities are our responsibilities. We are standing along the longest line of confrontation. It is longer than all Arab lines. On the other hand, Israel's intentions are Israel's intentions toward the Palestinian people, the Arab homeland, and the Arab nation. [sentence as published]

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, during the past 2 weeks, your prime minister made visits, particularly to Syria. What is the truth pertaining to this visit, especially as you, within the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], voiced a declared stand toward Syria?

[Husayn] Once again, Jordan has a special status, even when compared with its brothers. This status concerns the credibility it has attained over the years.

Hence, Jordan maintains contacts with all parties in the Arab homeland. Regarding the relationship with Syria, there is a joint Jordanian-Syrian committee involving a large number of Jordanian and Syrian ministries whose services and contributions have continued to this date.

As for the recent meetings, they fell within the framework of these agreements and contacts, which seek to bring about an integration and cooperation between the two countries.

God be praised, contacts continue between us and our brothers, whether we agree or fail to agree on everything. And the objective behind this maintenance of contacts is to serve the interests of all.

Our Syrian brothers have tolerated and accepted this. As a matter of fact, the end result and outcome must be that of preparing the climate and seriously focusing on the withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon.

[Al-'Umayr] Including Syrian forces, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] The Syrian presence in Lebanon is designed to serve a certain purpose. There are reasons that prompted Syria to shoulder its responsibilities. However, at a certain point in time, the climate must be prepared for a troop withdrawal. We must exert efforts to secure the withdrawal of Israeli and other forces. For example, the presence of Iranian forces in Lebanon is both unjustifiable and unacceptable to us.

I believe that we, as an Arab group, must work to prepare the groundwork for an intra-Lebanese dialogue so that all parties will be able to resolve their problems by themselves. The things that I fear most are the plans being prepared by Israel and other non-Israeli parties. Of course, we believe that what is taking place in Lebanon might lead to a greater division. No, we believe that this might place the Lebanese parties on the track leading to Balkanization unless a remedy is found; Balkanization is a danger that threatens us all.

I believe that one of the objectives of Israel and the Israeli movement is to be the strongest minority in the region. This is the stand that we voiced through the statement issued at the [ACC] summit. As for our ties with the brothers in Damascus, they are strong and firm, and they are all devoted to serving the Arab interests.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, does Jordan maintain contacts with any Lebanese parties?

[Husayn] No, there are no contacts. We back and support the efforts of the three-member committee comprising my brother the custodian of the two holy shrines, my brother King Hassan II, and my brother President Chadli Bendjedid and wish them all success. I believe that we must support the moves being made by this committee.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, what is your perspective of the situation now that the Iraq-Iran war has ended?

[Husayn] The steadfastness displayed by Iraq and the victories that Iraq scored fended off the malice targeting the Arab world. Thus, this evil has been stopped. I am not personally satisfied with the maintenance of the status quo; that is, the cease-fire. Iran's interests, as well as our own, would be served if we moved from the cease-fire phase to that of establishing a just peace. We hope that Iran will realize this before long and consequently change its method regarding the attainment of a suitable solution that would seek to benefit all parties.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, do you predict any change or shift in Iranian policy in the near future?

[Husayn] It is too difficult to predict what will happen in Iran and Iranian policy objectives.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, you, along with others, have launched the ACC. What will be the ACC's future steps?

[Husayn] We have attempted to lay down the foundations. Previous steps that led to the materialization of this grouping took the form of cooperation on both the joint committee and heads of state levels.

We are attempting to lay down sound foundations. We will be happy when we see this cooperation setting a good example for our brothers, just as the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] did. There is no doubt that cooperation among three groupings is better than cooperation among 21 states.

With the passage of time, the future steps will seek to create further organization and perform additional work, God willing. The ACC was launched to study all ways to achieve all that we agree upon. We will continue to work to serve Arab interests.

[Al-'Umayr] It is noticeable that the ACC does not consist of member states forming a single geographic unit, which is the case with the GCC and the Arab Maghreb Union. Does this mean that you are ready to accept other states within the ACC?

[Husayn] I believe that such a possibility has not been ruled out. The door is open for accepting other members within the ACC. However, what adds to my satisfaction in this regard is that none of the ACC member states seek to accept within the ACC framework members of the other existing groupings. The door to joining the ACC is open for states that have not so far joined any of the existing groupings.

[Al-'Umayr] So, are there states that applied to join the ACC?

[Husayn] No. No state has applied to join the ACC.

[Text] [Al-'Umayr] In the Arab summit, there was a recommendation to develop the Arab League. What does this paragraph mean, in Your Majesty's opinion?

[Husayn] With respect to the Arab League and its apparatus—although it is the oldest regional institution—the Arab League has not performed what it should. We must give it factors of strength to enable it move again and accomplish the achievements expected of it.

[Al-'Umayr] Does Your Majesty believe that the Arab League will be reactivated and its position restored if it returns to Cairo?

[Husayn] I believe that its return to Cairo is based on its charter. Cairo is the permanent headquarters of the Arab League.

[Al-'Umayr] Would Jordan support such a call?

[Husayn] If a proposal is made, it would be appropriate to return to the principles that place the Arab League in the center of the Arab world. And Egypt has a special position in our Arab world.

[Al-'Umayr] What is Your Majesty's reaction to the Mecca bombings?

[Husayn] I was in the hospital when the incident occurred. I cannot describe my feelings in words when I learned the reality of this mean and low criminal act. Nobody can imagine what took place in Mecca during the Hajj season. At all times, we are with our brothers. I immediately contacted my brother the custodian of the two holy mosques and was reassured about the situation. In my opinion, the behavior of some people against Islam in the name of Islam must end. The incident has tarnished the religion in front of the entire world.

It is a pan-Arab and fraternal religious duty. A brother must share his brother's feelings and denounce and condemn what happened. We hope that the criminal will be arrested and the responsible side will be identified. I believe there are suspicions that might reach the extent of certainty with regard to the responsible side. Anyway, nobody in the Arab and Islamic world accepts the continuation of such practices.

[Al-'Umayr] Does Your Majesty view more effective solutions to fight terrorism?

[Husayn] We can fight terrorism with more awareness, more attention, more cooperation among us, and in dialogue and openness. As people read history, it will become very clear to them that we are duty-bound to defend our doctrine and religion and to confront attempts to tarnish Islam or to use religion for certain objectives or objectives that are far removed from religion.

[Al-'Umayr] I want to ask Your Majesty: How did you personally receive what happened in Jordan?

[Husayn] There is no doubt that I was pained at what happened. I was pained to see any person get hurt, regardless of his behavior. I was stirred because I felt that there was an attempt to affect the future of Jordan as well as the image of Jordan negatively. This is despite the fact that the tribulation of the kinfolk in Jordan is a real and tough one—a tribulation that Jordan never experienced.

Despite this, I am proud that the majority of the people, even those who participated in the incidents, have changed their views on things when they were all put into the picture.

In fact, we saw—out of responsibility—that we should not hide some facts from the people so that the reaction would not be fear and confusion, which take place when some facts, no matter how hard, are hidden.

I am proud of the spirit of responsibility which prevailed among all the kinfolk in Jordan after they were acquainted with the difficult facts.

[Al-'Umayr] King Husayn's schedule is full of engagements. I believe he will meet with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He will then resume his activities, which he has not halted even when he was in the hospital. However, he is always preoccupied with what is happening in the Jordanian and Arab arenas. With regard to the internal Jordanian arena, he said while seeing me off:

[Husayn] We will work strenuously with everyone so that Jordan will perform its duty within the framework of understanding and cooperation—we laid down and opted to—with the Arab brothers. On the Palestinian level, we will stand on the side of our brothers in the PLO. We will support them with all our potentials. With more work, we will certainly reach our objective.

Prime Minister Issues Budget Circular

JN1907064689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir Tuesday issued a circular to all ministries urging them to strictly abide by instructions and guidelines pertaining to the preparation of their fiscal budgets for 1990

In his statement, the prime minister noted that budget figures for capital and current expenditure should be based on the following principles: —Current expenditures salaries and wages should be worked out on the basis of the actual salary scale contained in the 1989 job organisational chart in addition to the expected annual increases.

Each department, ministry or organisation should make estimates for expenditure at the rate of five per cent less than those estimated for the 1989 fiscal budgets. — Capital expenditure: Capital expenditure should be confined only to those projects that are being carried out or to which the concerned department is committed to carry out.

Capital expenditure can be allocated also for income-generating projects financed by foreign sources and designed to bring in foreign exchange. Allocations can be made as well for health and education schemes.

The prime minister's circular urged various ministries and government departments to instruct their affiliated offices in the provinces to make their estimates for the 1990 fiscal budget, but to revise the final version with the provincial governors before referring them to the concerned ministry.

While preparing their budgets, various ministries and government organisations are to ensure that projects included in the 1990 budget will be implemented within the means and technical and administrative potential of the concerned department, according to the official circular.

The prime minister also requested that each ministry include in its 1990 budget all financial commitments made during 1989 or before, but noted that under no condition can 1989 allocations be rolled over for the same projects in 1990.

The prime minister said that directors general of departments, ministries' secretaries general, and accountants will be held responsible for all the figures and information contained in the reports concerning the capital and current expenditure and the job organisational charts in their respective departments.

Normally, the budget department is responsible for studying all these reports for various government organisations before its staff can prepare a general report to be submitted to the government or parliament for approval.

European Community To Continue Support
JN1807074089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA, J.T.)—The European Community (EC) countries will continue their support for Jordan's endeavours to develop agriculture and attain self-sufficiency in food production, the EC delegate in Amman, Christian Falkowski, said Monday.

Falkowski told the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, that the EC is linked with Jordan through a number of agreements which took effect in 1977 aiming to expand cooperation between the two sides in economic, trade, financial, industrial and agricultural fields.

The EC delegate referred in particular to an agreement signed between the two sides last April and designed to help Jordan carry out soil survey and classification projects through a grant of four million European Currency Units (ECU) nearly JD 2.35 million.

He said that the agreement was part of the EC's drive to help develop rural areas in Jordan and provide sufficient basic information about natural resources needed to help planners to work out programmes for maximum benefit of the land.

According to Falkowski, almost eight per cent of Jordan's overall exports go to the EC countries and that nearly 35 per cent of the kingdom's imports come from EC nations.

He said that these rates are liable to increase in the future, thanks to continued cooperation in all fields.

Falkowski said that the EC supports the newly formed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen.

He said that the economies of these countries are bound to develop through closer cooperation between them on the one hand and between the ACC nations and the EC countries on the other.

In a statement to PETRA last March Falkowski praised the economic measures adopted by the Jordanian Government to introduce reforms and pledged EC's continued support for the Kingdom.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives in Amman 18 Jul
JN1907060789 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—QNA—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, arrived in Amman yesterday on a visit to Jordan lasting several days.

During the visit, the Palestinian official will hold talks with Jordanian officials on developments in the Palestine question as well as efforts to bring about peace in the region. The talks are part of coordination and consultations between the two countries.

U.S. 'Wavering' on International Conference Rapped
JN1707132289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Shamir's Double Talk; Washington's Empty Threats"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir appears to be speaking with many tongues these hot days. One day he tells his inner collaborators, Sharon, Levi and Moda'i, that his soul is bound by their conditions on Israel's so-called peace proposals and on the other he tells Washington that nothing really has changed and that his original "peace initiative" stands as is. This kind of political acrobatics can lead to only more confusion as to where Tel Aviv really stands on the Palestinian question and the other dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict. What adds insult to injury is the fact that both the U.S. and the trio Israeli extremists seem to believe Shamir. Logic on the other hand would call for believing one side of Shamir's story or the other—not both. In other words he is either lying to his countrymen including Sharon and his clique or to the U.S. or worst still to both sides.

This is all happening when Washington is threatening Israel with the idea of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East as a last resort. The question that comes to one's mind is the following: Since when does the holding of an international conference under the aegis of the U.N. Security Council's permanent members constitute a form of punishment to be meted against any party to the Arab-Israeli conflict? The international community has always subscribed to the conference idea as the only viable and operational way left to move the parties to the Middle East conflict from

base one. The recent verdict of the seven Western leaders, who met in Paris on the occasion of the bicentennial celebrations of the French Revolution, that convening an international conference on the Middle East offers the best hope to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflicts is an added evidence that the involvement of the U.N. Security Council is a blessing and not a curse on the parties to the conflicts. This proposition is valid no matter what the real intentions of Israel are on the issues of war and peace in the Middle East.

If only Washington would stop wavering on the conference objective and refrain from treating it as a bogey idea, all sides stand to gain much precious time and opportunities. Accordingly, the ball remains in the U.S. side of the court and the sooner it kicks it back to the right side the better would be the chances for peace in the Middle East.

UN Official Comments on Anti-Drug Operations

JN1807080489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 89 p 3

[Excerpts] Amman—Despite geographical barriers, difficulties in montoring its vast desert terrain and increased activities by drug traffickers, Jordan's anti-drug operations are highly praiseworthy and the Kingdom's enforcement authorities are doing an excellent job, according to the general secretary of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC).

Giuseppe Di Gennaro, who was here on a four-day working visit earlier last week for a close, on-the-spot review of Jordan's activities in combating the drug menace, said the Kingdom was doing "a great service to the international community" by effectively enforcing and maintaining its battle against narcotics trafficking through its territory.

The UNFDAC gives advice, funding or equipment only upon the request of a given government. Gennaro, who reviewed the activities of the Jordanian drug enforcement officials, noted that the Arab World has been plagued recently by a rapid increase of consumption, production, processing and trafficking of drugs. Which, he said, "are of serious detriment to the countries' political, social, economic, democratic and cultural well-being."

Gennaro pointed out that the major producer of hashish and opium derivatives (heroin), Lebanon, exports up to 800 tonnes of hashish per year. "More than half of that goes to Egypt, where you have the highest estimated consumption of drugs in the Arab world."

The assistant-secretary-general [title as published] pointed out that although Jordan has not yet been affected, it must continue to fortify itself against an onslaught of the quickly spreading "drug phenomenon."

"Drug traffickers have seen openings for new markets in the Arab World and they will do their best to exploit these openings."

Sooner or later a transit country such as Jordan is likely to become a victim of drug abuse. In order to prevent this the police and the public security forces have been exerting a maximum effort to control the flow of drugs that transits through Jordan.

The Border and Bedouin Police have been of great help in this according to Gennaro. "The fact that 80 per cent of Jordan is desert does not help the anti-narcotics and counterfeit units a great deal."

After Gennaro and Lewin Bo, a technical advisor in law enforcement matters—also on a working visit to Jordan—reviewed anti-drug enforcement programmes in Jordan, they came to the conclusion that the "assistance given to the anti-narcotics and counterfeit units has been utilised to the utmost."

Gennaro added that the unit is facing a lot of problems because traffickers take advantage of the desert. He also noted that he saw as "excellent coordination" between Colonel Ghalib Al-Zu'bi's Anti-Narcotics Department and the Desert Police (Badia), headed by Fawaz Al-Zabin and their cooperation with General Abd Al-Hadi Al-Majali, the director of the Public Security Department.

According to Gennaro the Jordanian government presented him with a "master plan" which entails plans to curb the flow of narcotics through Jordan.

After visiting anti-drug stations in Ramtha and al-Aqaba (which is the outlet of drugs of Egypt), Gennaro remarked that Jordan could play an important regional role in not only curbing the flow or drugs but also establishing a drug rehabilitation centre for the region.

According to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, who met with Gennaro, so far drug addicts in Jordan have been committed to institutions for the mentally ill. The medical attention they receive there is likely to be a far cry from the treatment they should be getting.

This although Jordan has a relatively small percentage of drug addicts, a rehabilitation centre, which would serve for Jordan and the whole region, would be ideal, according to Gennaro.

The visitors noted that it is impossible to estimate what percentage of the world's drug trafficking flows through Jordan. [passage omitted]

Gennaro said he was very impressed by the efficiency of the Jordanian drug enforcement officials. They felt that Jordan "was willing and able to deal with the drug phenomena." [passage omitted]

Complementary to Jordan's suggestions that a drug rehabilitation centre be set up in the country, Gennaro suggested that Jordanians be trained to deal with drug addiction. "This would entail visits and training abroad and studies of the different methodologies on how to deal with drug addiction." He added that the most recent trends have tended to be less permissive, stressing rigid approaches. [passage omitted]

During his four-day visit to Jordan (July 9-13), Gennaro was awarded the Al-Istiklal medal of the First Order by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, on behalf of His Majesty King Husayn.

"This indicates the high priority that the Jordanian leadership places on keeping Jordan free of drugs. I am extremely impressed," he concluded.

Lebanese Forces on Siege, Tehran Statement
NC1807192689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The Lebanese Command Council has discussed the blockade which the Syrian occupation army is imposing on the free areas and the venomous shelling which accompanies the blockade. This shelling leads to the killing of innocent and peaceful citizens in their homes, deprives those citizens of the means of decent subsistence, and cripples the course of economic life in the country.

The command council described these practices as a military translation of the Tehran political statement which aims at destroying the country and undermining the existence of the Lebanese in general and the Christians in particular.

The Lebanese forces voiced their astonishment at the fact that the siege and the bombardment have been met with international indifference and Arab silence. They called on the Arab tripartite committee and the five major countries—some of which have experienced siege at some point in their history—to intervene immediately and end the siege and its negative implications for the homeland and the people.

The Lebanese Forces declared that the Arab and international silence over the continued Syrian blockade is tantamount to accepting the death of a homeland and its people, a result which the Lebanese Forces will never endorse, regardless of the sacrifices. The Lebanese Forces stated their readiness to resort to all means of legitimate self-defense in order to silence the sources of fire which kill the innocent citizens in their homes, factories, and schools. The Lebanese Forces will seek to break the siege and banish the specter of famine in a country which has never bowed the knee and never will do so.

At its weekly meeting, chaired by Dr Samir Ja'ja', the Lebanese Forces Command Council debated the statement issued in Tehran by Lebanese parties and pro-Syrian Palestinian groups and examined the part of the statement relating to instigation against certain Lebanese parties. The council considered this statement as an aspect of the war being waged against Lebanon and as evidence of a Syrian-Iranian collusion aimed at certain political gains that do not serve Lebanese interests.

In this respect, the Lebanese Forces expressed their regret that certain Lebanese groups have become instruments for the attainment of these gains at the expense of Lebanon and the interests of its population. It is regrettable that such Lebanese groups have come to adopt slogans that are narrowminded and sectarian, to put it mildly, and not conducive to peace or reconciliation among the Lebanese.

The Lebanese Forces stated their belief that the recent statement in Tehran proves beyond a doubt that foreign intervention in Lebanon is a major reason for the continuation of the war in this country. The right approach to resolving the current crisis is to neutralize the role of the external influences which are hampering a solution in the country.

Diplomats Urge 'Self-Restraint' Among Factions
LD1807153389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1356 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 18 (KUNA)—Arab and foreign diplomats here have urged the Lebanese warring factions to exercise self-restraint and appealed to them to keep away from the military confrontation and create a favourable atmosphere for the Arab tripartite committee in its efforts to achieve ceasefire in Lebanon.

Following a meeting with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Algiers ambassador here Khalidi al-Hasnawi briefed newsmen today on the latest developments, including sea blockades and medium-range FROG-7 missiles possessed by the Lebanese forces.

He said that the Arab tripartite committee, assigned by the recent Casablanca Arab emergency summit to resolve the Lebanese crisis, and comprises of Moroccan King Hassan II, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, was exerting all efforts to find a just and comprehensive settlement to the Lebanese problems.

He described the situation in Lebanon as "dangerous and deteriorating day by day."

The Soviet ambassador to Beirut said that his country was trying to mediate between Iraq and Syria to bridge their political differences.

In a press statement after a meeting with Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials, he added that the Soviet first deputy foreign minister had discussed with the Iraqi and Syrian officials during his visits to Baghdad and Damascus, the Lebanese crisis and handed messages to President Saddam Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad from President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He reiterated Moscow's support to achieving a ceasefire in Lebanon and to find an instant political solution to the crisis.

The Soviet ambassador urged the anti-Damascus side in the Lebanese conflict without mentioning it by name to seek Syria's assistance for finding a settlement, indicating no settlement could be reached without Syria's participation.

The ambassadors of the U.S. and Spain underlined their respective countries' intentions of finding a peaceful settlement to the Lebanese crisis.

The Spanish ambassador said that Madrid urged all concerned Lebanese parties to demonstrate self-restraint and to give a chance and wait for the outcome of the efforts of the tripartite committee.

Lebanese Army Shells Mountain Areas 18 Jul

NC1807173589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The al-Yarzah militia [Lebanese Army] has resumed its attacks on the nationalist areas. Duhur al-'Ibadiyah, Shuwayt, and 'Alayh came under mortar fire from positions held by this militia at around 1800 today.

Resistance Clashes With Israeli, Lahd Forces

NC1807180389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to another statement issued by the Amal Movement today, at 1230 yesterday, while a Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal group of the Martyr Musa Jabir forces was returning to the liberated areas after carrying out a mission inside the occupied strip, it encountered an Israeli-Lahd ambush at Wadi al-Saluqi. A fierce battle ensued between the mujahidin and the enemy, lasting around 1 hour. Various types of machineguns and rockets were used in the fighting and the enemy was forced to use its long-range tank artillery to shell the area. The enemy also called in helicopters that raked the area, thus facilitating the withdrawal of the enemy forces. One of the mujahidin was slightly injured and was taken to the liberated areas. The enemy suffered heavy losses and withdrew.

According to reports from the south, a joint Israeli-Lahd force raided and searched Bani Hayyan in the occupied border strip last night. The force then advanced toward Wadi al-Saluqi while enemy artillery bombarded the towns of Qabrikha and Majdal Silm. Four citizens were injured and taken to hospitals in Tyre.

Resistance men detonated an explosive device yesterday under an Israeli vehicle while a hostile force comprising 30 soldiers was searching the Al-Shumariyah area near the al-Litani River. Security sources in the area said three Israeli soldiers were injured and evacuated by helicopter to the occupied Arab territories.

Amal Report Says Israeli Killed in Bomb Attack

NC1807114489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The operations room of the Amal Movement in the south has issued the following statement:

At 0630 today, a group of the Lebanese resistance battalions—Amal—detonated five explosive devices simultaneously while an Israeli enemy force foot patrol was passing on Bra'shit road. Eyewitnesses say a member of the patrol was killed and two others wounded. Immediately afterward, the enemy shelled the towns of Frun and Bra'shit and opened extensive sniper fire at the fringes of the town of Majdal Zun from the Israeli positions in the towns of Balat and Tayr Harfa.

According to reports received from the south, a joint force of Israeli forces and Lahd militiamen advanced in the direction of the eastern forest of the town of Majdal Zun at 1030 today. The joint force provoked farmers and prevented them from carrying out their work under the threat of opening fire at them.

At approximately 1115, occupation forces opened sniper fire at the fringes of Majdal Zun and followed it by an artillery shelling of the town and the neighboring valleys. The area of Basil has also been hit by a number of shells followed by sniper fire from the occupation forces positions in Balat.

[In a related report, datelined Tyre, Paris AFP in English at 1028 GMT on 18 July adds, "Three Israeli soldiers were injured when a remote-controlled bomb exploded Tuesday in the Israeli-imposed "security zone" of south Lebanon, regional security sources said.

"The soldiers were on a military truck carrying some 20 troops on al-Shumariyeh hill in the zone's central sector. They were evacuated by helicopter to Israel."]

Resistance Fighters Detonate Device 19 Jul

NC1907055489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] A group of resistance fighters detonated an explosive device as a Zionist occupation forces armored patrol was passing on Yarin Road at dawn today. A vehicle was destroyed, and its crew members were killed or wounded. The occupation forces later raked the area with machinegun fire.

Southern Areas Said Under 'Fundamentalist' Fire

NC1907080889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The city of Jazzin is still coming under 120-mm artillery fire from fundamentalist positions in Mashgharah and adjacent areas. The shelling was resumed after an earlier round at dawn today. Seventy shells have landed in the area so far. The South Lebanese Army [SLA] is returning fire to Mashgharah, Maydun, 'Ayn al-Tinah, and Zillaya. Due to the intensity of fire, it was not possible to learn whether there have been any casualties. [passage omitted]

The SLA has threatened to dirct concentrated artillery fire against western al-Biqa' if the fundamentalists do not hold their fire and release three shepherds from the al-Qantarah township. The shepherds are being held by fundamentalist groups in western al-Biqa'.

Beirut Radio on Continuing Cl[a]shes in South
NC1907090889 Beirut Domestic S[e]rvice in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Since this morning, violer[t] clashes have been raging between Islamic resistanc[e] fighters and agent Lahd militiamen in Taw'amat Ja[z]zin in the wake of a rocket attack the resistance fighter[s] had launched on the agents' position there.

The militia radio has reported th[at] artillery shells had fallen on Jazzin at approximately 30 radio admitted the attack but did n[ot] by 0820 today. The [no]t provide any details.

At approximately 2245 last night, t[he] Haddathah came under 105-mm [fi]e towns of Haris and 12.7-mm gunfire accompanied by [a]rtillery shelling and were again bombarded this morn[in]lares. The two towns mined that Israeli tanks stationed [i]g. It has been deter- conducted the bombardment. [o]n the town of Rshaf

At 1900 last night, Israeli reinforc[e]ments, estimated at about four tanks and four armored were monitored in 'Alman and al-[H]cars and their crews, humariyah.

The town of 'Ayn 'Ata in wester[n] al-Biqa' also came under artillery shelling from the [s]positions held by the agents on the hills overlooking it [la]st night.

The agents' radio has warned that the shelling of the town will continue unless three missing people from al-Qatranah are released. The radio added that Agent Lahd and the so-called commander of the northern area toured the area of Bint Jubayl yesterday and inspected the positions held jointly by the enemy forces and agents. They were accompanied by a number of officers.

Hizballah Radio Reports Shelling in South
NC1907080289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Excerpts] According to security reports, the areas of Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah in western al-Biqa' came under artillery fire from the opposing Israeli occupation positions at 0330 today. One woman named Aminah Ahmad and her 1-year-old child were killed and her husband wounded. According to reports, the shelling continued for approximately 1 and ½ hours. [passage omitted]

According to reports from the south, Za'if Zakharin, commander of the Israeli liaison unit, and the commander [Major General Antoine Lahd] of the agent militias have toured the positions of the so-called South Lebanese Army [SLA] in the occupied border zone. The reports add that Zakharin and Lahd inaugurated two new crossing gates connecting the occupied and liberated areas in Jazzin, at the Jazzin-Mashgharah-Kafr Huna triangle.

Afghanistan

AFP Notes 'House-to-House Sweeps' in Kabul

BK1907005089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2200 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 18 (AFP)—Afghan security forces conducted a house-to-house sweep of parts of the capital Tuesday after a rocket fired by mujahidin rebels killed one civilian and wounded another.

(A total of 303 civilians were arrested in the crackdown on subversives, Radio Kabul said in a report monitored in Islamabad. Some were later released.)

Thousands of army soldiers, paramilitary troops and police patrolled the city's streets in tanks and armoured personnel carriers. The escalated security compared with measures introduced after the declaration of a state of emergency in February, observers said.

Government spokesman Muhammed Nabi Amani said the sweep was designed to prevent "accumulation of weapons and any possible act of terrorism," and the the house-to-house search covered even the homes of government workers.

(Radio Kabul said 11 rifles and some explosives were seized in the operation.

(The military called on Kabul's citizens to "cooperate and give information about any blast so the troops can better do their job of saving the lives of civilians," the radio reported.)

The sweep came as a rocket slammed into a residential district in southwest Kabul Tuesday, killing a civilian and injuring another. Three other rockets fell without injuring anyone. The operation also follows a car bomb explosion in the city center Saturday which killed 10 people and wounded 54.

("All Afghans are aware that the enemy, in order to harass people through bomb blasts, are entering Kabul city and carrying out subversive activities," the radio said in apparent reference to Muslim rebels who are fighting against the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah.

(The mujahidin rebels, who are supported by the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, have intensified their guerrilla war across the country in the last few weeks.

(Several hundred of them have infiltrated Kabul, where they have a network of contacts within the armed forces and secret service, diplomatic sources in Islamabad said.

(On Tuesday, Radio Kabul said that General Najibullah had sent a message to his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Khamene'i, asking him to intervene to try to "check Pakistan's interference" in Afghanistan.

(Gen. Najibullah was quoted as saying Pakistan was responsible for the stepped-up fighting in the country.

(Western diplomats Tuesday described as "disinformation" Kabul's claims Monday that its troops were advancing east from Jalalabad towards Towr Kham, 10 kilometers (six miles) from the Pakistan border on the strategic Khyber Pass.

(Rebel sources also denied a government claim Monday that its troops had captured Gaziabad, the last mujahidin stronghold before the Towr Kham post on the 75-kilometer (45-mile) highway linking Towr Kham with Jalalabad.)

(And in Peshawar, resistance sources said a fire at an ammunition depot in Qargha which the mujahidin said they blew up Monday was a major blow to the government.

(They said the depot's ammunition was used by government troops defending Kabul, 10 kilometers (six miles) southeast of Qargha.

(Quoting radio messages from the front, the sources said flames from the fire lit up the sky throughout Monday night at the depot, where the 8th Afghan Army is headquartered, and were not put out until Tuesday morning.)

There has been no official confirmation of the report.

Najibullah Appeals to Khamene'i for Help

LD1807180189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Message from President Najibullah to Iranian President Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brother Hazrat-e Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of Iran and leader of the Islamic revolution, I would like to inform you, brother, about the tense situations caused by the intensification of Pakistan's direct interference and aggression inside and outside Afghanistan. As you know, Pakistan as a signatory of the Geneva accords has displayed no regard for its pledges and in cooperation with its international partners is continuing its direct aggression and interference against the Republic of Afghanistan. As a result the war is daily intensifying and assuming wider and more dangerous dimensions.

Pakistan's interference has now assumed a terrorist and bandit nature. With the employment of Saudi Wahhabis and mercenaries and the Afghan opposition groups which it supports, every day tens of our compatriots including women, children, and elderly people are martyred in missile attacks on Afghanistan's cities, particularly Kabul. On 10 July alone anti-Afghan mercenaries fired 65 rockets at Kabul city. In this attack 18 innocent

compatriots, including women, children, and old men, were martyred, and 131 were injured. Material losses were also inflicted on Kabul citizens.

Furthermore, on 11 July as a result of the detonation of 500 kg of explosive substance tens of our Muslim compatriots engaged in celebrating the 'Id al-Adha festival were martyred and injured. We believe such tragic incidents which cause the death of dozens of Muslim civilians are a cause for sorrow among fraternal Iranian Muslim people, too. Our Muslim people have been the victims of the international conspiracies and intrigues carried out by Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis.

The state and people of the Republic of Afghanistan as an Islamic and neighboring country the Islamic Republic of Iran can play an important role in putting an end to the interference and aggression by Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan and in putting an end to the fratricidal war in our country. In recognition of this fact I turn to you, dear brother, as the beloved leader of the Muslim people of Iran and ask you to use your moral strength and prestige to undertake immediate measures and prevent Pakistan's interference by every possible means and thus assist our persecuted people in maintaining peace in our country.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew my regards. Success comes from God.
[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

French Embassy Staff Begins 1 Week Kabul Visit

BK1907063489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0632 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 19 (AFP)—French charge d'affaires Raymond Petit has arrived here with two of his colleagues, five and a half months after Paris temporarily closed its mission in Kabul citing security reasons.

Mr. Petit and attaches Jean Jaques Ciancigni and Gerard Noirot arrived here Tuesday on a week-long visit to pay the embassy's Afghan staff and inspect the mission's premises, diplomatic sources here said. The Afghan staff had not been paid since May.

No decision has yet been made on whether or not to reopen the mission, which was shut on February 6. The French mission was the last of Western embassies to shut amid security fears ahead of the February 15 completion of the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan.

Mr. Petit was the last Western diplomat to leave Kabul, however he continues to hold his title as charge d'affaires.

The French staff arrived here a day after four Britons, including two former embassy personnel, arrived here on a similar mission.

Italy, which sent a representative back to Kabul two months ago on a ten day visit to attend to administrative problems, is "soon" expected to send a team as are the West Germans, diplomatic sources said.

The missions are also expected to use the opportunity to assess the military and political situation in Afghanistan, the sources said.

Britain, France, Italy and West Germany are the four European Economic Community member-states to have embassies in Kabul and the missions appear to have been arranged after informal consultations between them, the sources added.

Other missions that pulled out ahead of the February 15 troop withdrawal included the United States, Japan and Indonesia. Kabul has frequently appealed to them to return, saying their security can be guaranteed.

U.S. Policy May Result in 'Second Vietnam'

LD1507091589 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 15 Jul 89 p 10

[Article by Robert Fox: "Kabul Threatens To Hit Rebel Bases in Refugee Camps"]

[Text] The Kabul regime has threatened to attack Mujahidin rebel bases in refugee camps in Pakistan in retaliation for the latest wave of heavy rocket attacks against cities in Afghanistan, including Kabul. The threat was made yesterday by Mr Ahmad Sarwar, acting charge d'affaires for Afghanistan in London.

He told a press conference: "If the rocket attacks continue, we will take retaliatory and reciprocal action and attack the bases of the instigators."

Soveit supplied Scud-B missiles have landed on refugee camps at Peshawar from time to time, the latest in May killing three people.

The Afghan regime is clearly worried about the increase in attacks by Saker 107mm and 120mm rockets launched at Kabul from the surrounding hills. This week, an average of more than 50 have been landing in the city each day.

At the beginning of the week, during a night attack, one rocket hit an ammunition dump at the main airport, a prime target for the guerrillas.

The pattern is very like that of last summer, when more than 100 rockets rained on Kabul each day in August.

Mr Sarwar said the regime expected fresh attacks on southern cities over the next few days, orchestrated and organised by Pakistani and American military advisers of the Mujahidin.

He said "several American generals" had been involved in the preparations. "If the U.S. continues its policy of direct aggression," said Mr Sarsaw, "Afghanistan will become a second Vietnam for them."

The Kabul regime is evidently piqued that its offers for peace talks have been rejected by the Mujahidin.

The latest plan for mediation, proposed by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, in Islamabad last week, has just been turned down by the rebels.

The tone of the statement by Mr Sarwar was a good deal harsher than the speech broadcast by President Najibullah on Kabul radio five days ago, in which he offered a ceasefire for the Hajj, the month of pilgrimage to Mecca. This, too, has been rejected by the guerrillas.

U.S. Criticized for Increasing Aid to Mujahidin

BK1807161689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1604 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 18 (AFP)—The Afghan Government on Tuesday [18 July] slammed a U.S. decision to step up military aid to the mujahidin, warning that it would hamper prospects of peace in the war-torn nation.

"The new set of weapons are designed to give a new momentum to the extremists fighting against the Government of Afghanistan," Foreign Ministry spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani said.

Mr. Amani said the United States should recognise that a military option was futile. "The extremists have no chances of military success," he said.

On Monday U.S. special envoy to the Afghan resistance, Peter Tomsen, said Washington would supply the guerrillas with more sophisticated weapons, noting that Moscow had given the Afghan Government large quantities of weapons.

Mr. Amani said the U.S. decision to step up arms supplies to the mujahidin, who have been fighting to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul government for more than 10 years, would sow "further misery and chaos" in Afghanistan. "This decision of the United States can be regarded as nothing but a way of fulfilling its strategic objectives in our region," Mr. Amani said.

He recalled peace gestures offered by the Kabul government, including its policy of national reconciliation and readiness to form a broad-based coalition government, as well as the Geneva accords of April 1988. The accords, guaranteed by the United States and Soviet Union, were signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan and bind them not to interfere in each other's internal affairs.

The United States and Pakistan have been the mujahidin's main backers.

"The people of Afghanistan had great hope in the Geneva accords because it was guaranteed by the United States and contained concrete guarantees for a cessation of interference in Afghanistan," Mr. Amani said. "Regrettably the flames of war have not been extinguished but fanned further and the flames have begun to burn more Afghans," the spokesman said.

He described as baseless reports that the step-up of U.S. military aid was designed to counter increased arms supplies from Moscow to Kabul, adding that Soviet military aid to the Kabul government was dictated by bilateral protocols between two sovereign governments.

He reaffirmed his government's readiness to accept a cut off of Soviet arms' aid if the United States stopped arming the rebels.

Foreign Ministry on U.S. Arms for 'Extremists'

LD1807211389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has given the following reply to a question from BAKHTAR on the U.S. Administration's supply of advanced arms to the extremists, as THE NEW YORK POST and THE WASHINGTON POST reported on 15 and 16 July:

The Afghan Government has taken many practical steps toward national reconciliation and to ending the war, whose pains and miseries are borne only by the Afghans and their country. Unfortunately, we have to say that foreign intervention, especially by the United States which wants to prolong the war in its interest, has raised obstacles and problems to the peace-loving efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan and has attacked out of weakness peace and security, which should immediately be restored to the country. The United States, as a guarantor of the Geneva accords and in line with 43d UN session's resolution should make proper efforts for the immediate restoration of peace in Afghanistan. It should not keep fanning the flames of war in our country, applying military pressure in order to achieve its goals in the region. It should not fuel the war so that Afghans will kill each other to the last man.

The supply of modern and advanced weapons can only further destroy Afghanistan, cause the deaths of more children, women, and elderly people, and intensify the war in the war-weary country of the Afghans.

Washington knows that the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces are capable of resolutely defending the country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. They are aware of the fact that the extremist groups have been defeated and that they will never win militarily in this war. However, it resorts to new conspiracies and plots to strengthen the poor morale of the extremists through military pressure. To recall the

statements of Tomsen, U.S. special representative: He said that the guerrillas' defeat is caused not by a weapons shortage but by the lack of understanding among the groups.

Now that there is no excuse for the United States to continue the war, the arms supply to the extremists demonstrates the intensification of war against the Republic of Afghanistan and the justification of political concerns in the United States. [sentence as heard] Such statements and excuses by a country that has guaranteed the Geneva accords and that is a superpower are grotesque and irresponsible. It stirs up more hatred among the Afghans against the warmongers.

Defense Minister Tanay Inspects Armed Forces
LD1807212789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] This morning Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, the minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, paid a visit to some central units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. According to a report of BAKHTAR's military section, Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay, the minister of defense, who was accompanied by the leadership of the Ministry of Defense, heads of departments, and generals, visited combat preparation sites of the units, engineering fortifications, and command sites. He gave instructions to officers on strengthening combat capability and discipline. He also visited artillery units conducting firing exercises at various targets.

The report adds that the minister of defense took part in meetings with personnel of the units and set out their duties to defend peace and security in the country and nation, independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty. He drew their attention to the need to ensure discipline and enhance combat operations.

A number of the units' personnel in their speeches assured that they would spare no sacrifice to carry out the duties entrusted to them and inflict crushing blows on the enemies of independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. They will work for the complete implementation of national reconciliation policy and the restoration of peace and security in the country.

The report adds that Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay, the minister of defense, conferred medals and orders of the Republic of Afghanistan on those soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers who have shown merit in their entrusted duties.

'Extremists' Launch More Rockets at Kabul
LD1807164589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] In continuation of their unforgivable crimes the criminal extremists, supported by Pakistan, today again launched four surface-to-surface missiles at the residential areas in Kabul city.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of these missiles, fired by the treacherous extremists, one of our compatriots was martyred and another person was wounded. These rockets hit two residential houses, heavily damaging them and the surrounding houses.

Fighting in Nangarhar, Qandahar Reported
LD1607063989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 15, BAKHTAR—The extremists backed by Pakistan by firing rockets on the residential areas of Nangarhar and Qandahar Provinces as well as Khowst grand-district violated once again yesterday the cease fire announced by the State of the Republic of Afghanistan on the honour of 'Id al-Adha festival, report our military correspondents from the said provinces.

The extremists started on Friday their attack in the eastern direction of Jalalabad city which was repelled by the heroic government's armed forces stationed in that province. Sixty-seven extremists were killed and seventy-five others got injuries as a result of the counter attacks of the armed forces in that province. Five ringleades and a number of Pakistani militarists and Wahhabi mercenaries were among those killed and wounded. A large amount of arms and munitions of the enemy were destroyed or seized during the operations as well. The report adds that one personnel of the armed forces was martyred and five others got injuries and a residential house damaged as well in Jalalabad battle.

On the basis of another report the extremists launched once again on Friday rockets against the residential areas of Khowst killing one personnel of the armed forces and injuring two others. Three houses and a number of the cattles were also annihilated there.

Thus the armed forces based in Khowst resorted to counter actions killing 48 extremists and wounding 53 others. A number of the arms of the enemy were destroyed as well.

Likewise, the extremists fired on Friday heavy missiles on the residential areas of Qandahar Province injuring a member of the government's armed forces. Six persons attched to the enemy were killed and two others got injuries in Qandahar as a result of the counterattacks of the armed forces.

Fighting Continues
LD1807072689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 17, BAKHTAR—The detachments of the armed forces based in Nangarhar Province launched offensive operations in south-east direction of Jalalabad city yesterday and recaptured new positions in the area of Sorkh Dewal [placename as received], reports our military correspondent from Nangarhar Province. The

report says that a tank, two mortars and a large amount of munitions of the enemy were seized by the armed forces in the said operations in Nangarhar Province.

According to another report, the extremists backed by the 11th and the 18th Corps of Pakistan fired yesterday heavy missiles on the residential areas and security posts of Jalalabad city killing one personnel of the armed forces and wounding five persons.

The report says further that the armed forces stationed in that province resorted to counter attacks as a result of which 68 extremists were killed and 84 others seriously wounded. A great number of arms and munitions of the enemy were destroyed in the operations as well.

On the basis of another report, the extremist groups launched rocket attacks on the residential areas of Qandahar Province killing four civilians and injuring two others.

Our military correspondent reports from Khowst granddistrict that the extremists fired on Sunday heavy missiles against Khowst city causing no casualty. Thus the armed forces based in Khowst resorted to counter attacks killing 37 extremists and injuring 45 others as well.

According to another report a rocket which was fired by the extremists hit a school here in the capital yesterday causing much material losses.

Bloody clashes have recently occurred between Rabbani and Mohammadi extremists groups in the related areas of Vardak Province on distribution of the plundered goods of the people. The report adds that 44 persons from the rival groups were killed and 90 others got injuries during the said clashes. Likewise, similar clashes happened among the extremists in suburbs of Lowgar Province as a result of which several Wahhabis were killed and tens of others wounded.

According to another report, a fifteen-person armed opposition group headed by Mawlawi Murtaza [name as received] joined the process of the national reconciliation in Ghowr Province today. The report adds that five families numbering thirty four persons who were wandering in the mountains returned today to their villages in Ghowr Province and resumed their normal life again.

State Security Troops Dispatched

LD1807210189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] A number of he members of combat youth brigade of the Ministry of State Security will arrive in Nangarhar Province to consolidate and broaden the gains our heroic armed forces in this Province.

BAKHTAR's military section reported that at the meeting held today in the conference hall of the Department of Political Affairs of the Ministry of State Security on the occasion of the dispatch of the 3d Combat Brigade of the Ministry of State Security, Major General Muhammad Aref Sakhra, head of the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry of State Security, spoke about the political and military situation in the country and the duties and responsibilities of the state security personnel in the present circumstances. He recalled with appreciation the high feelings of the members of combat brigade of this ministry.

A message from the combat brigade addressed to the Supreme Council of the Homeland was read out at the end of the meeting.

Troops in Provinces Repel Mujahidin Attacks

LD1807191189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1700 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] A competent source of the armed forces reported to the military section of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that as a result of mopping up and search operations which took place in the surroundings of Jalalabad city a large area was cleared of the enemy presence and a large number of enemy weapons and ammunition, including 12 Sakar-20 shells, 20 boxes of medium mortar shells, 23 shells for recoilless guns, 28 rockets with three boxes of warheads, 32 antitank shells, 19 mines for long-range mortars, 35 rocket shells with 29 warheads, were seized.

The source added that the joint forces of the enemy including Pakistani militarists and Saudis and the extremist groups attached to them, who, after continuous defeats on the battle front, are now relying on long-range weapons, carried out heavy weapon shellings yesterday. The shellings were supported by the artillery fire of Pakistan's XI Army Corps on Jalalabad city, security posts, and the surrounding residential regions. As a result, four personnel of the armed forces were martyred and another seven persons were wounded.

The source added that the heroic units and subunits of the armed forces stationed in Nangarhar Province, whose epic-making struggles against foreign aggression on the sanctity of our country are the cause for pride by every compatriot, have stopped the enemy firing by crushing blows. As a result, 278 of the enemy were killed and 114 wounded. A number of those killed or injured are Pakistani militarists and mercenaries of Saudi rulers. Two missile units, three mortars, three recoilless guns, seven rocket launchers, one tank, four supply vehicles, and two weapon and ammunition depots of the enemy were destroyed.

The source added that yesterday the extremists, supported by Pakistan, carried out heavy shellings in Qandahar and Paktia Provinces, causing no loss of life. As a result of retaliatory blows inflicted by the units and

subunits of the armed forces stationed in Qandahar Province, 30 enemy troops were killed. Six motor vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition, two mortars, three DShK's and two enemy artillery pieces were destroyed.

Islamabad Notes Mujahidin Operations in Provinces
BK1807153189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan the mujahidin have carried out extensive operations in five provinces during the last 2 weeks. The mujahidin carried out a night attack on Kabul Airport last week destroying two aircraft and one helicopter. An explosion also took place in an arms and ammunition depot during the attack in which four Kabul troops were killed. The mujahidin also attacked the Special Guards in the capital area damaging one tank and killing two soldiers.

The mujahidin carried out rocket attacks on Qandahar Airport destroying a MiG-21.

According to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, the mujahidin killed or wounded about 400 soldiers of Kabul regime in Spin Buldak area of Qandahar Province on the night of 'Id al-Adha.

Reports received from Baghlan, Nangarhar, and Paktia Provinces say that in different operations Kabul regime troops suffered heavy loss of life and property.

Mujahidin Capture Brigade in Paktia Province
BK1907083689 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have captured (Damoza) Brigade of Education Corps in one of their biggest offensive against the Kabul regime troops in Paktia Province. They are reported to have arrested 850 soldiers and 30 military officers. They seized huge quantity of arms and ammunition, including seven tanks. Mujahidin also captured several military posts of strategic importance in the area.

Bangladesh

President Ershad Forms New Cabinet 19 Jul
BK1907101689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 19 (AFP)—Following is the list of ministers after President Hussain Mohammad Ershad reshuffled his cabinet Wednesday. His last reshuffle was in march this year:
Prime Minister (in charge of Ministry of Industries)—Moudud Ahmed
Deputy Prime Minister (Health and Family Planning)—Abdul Matin
Deputy Prime Minister and Political Advisor to the President (Information)—Kazi Zafar Ahmed
Deputy Prime Minister (Labour and Manpower)—Shah Moazzem Hossain

Ministers:
Agriculture—Abdul Munim
Home—Mahmudul Hasan
Ports and Shipping—Korban Ali
Foreign Affairs—Anisul Islam Mahmud
Relief and Rehabilitation—Sirajul Hossain Khan
Communications—Anwar Hossain
Forest—Mayeedul Islam
Planning—Abdul Karim Khandker
Jute—Mahbubur Rahman
Land—Sunil Gupta
Textile—Zafar Imam
Education—Sheikh Shahidul Islam
Commerce—Abdus Sattar
Fisheries and Livestock—Sardar Amjad Hussain
Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control—A.B.M. Ghulam Mostafa
Works—Mostafa Jamal Haider
Social Welfare and Women's Affairs—Rezwanul Huq Chowdhury
Finance—Dr. Wahidul Haque
Food—Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury
Energy and Mineral Resources—Ziauddin Ahmed
Youth and Sports—Ruhul Amin Howladar
Civil Aviation and Tourism—H.M.A. Gaffar
Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives—Mohammad Naziur Rahman

State Ministers:
Health and Family Planning—Mamdudur Rahman Chowdhury
Post and Telecommunications—Kazi Firoz Rashid
Religious Affairs—Nazimuddin al-Azad
Information—Syed Deedar Bakht
Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control—Monzur Quader
Finance—Faruque Rashid Chowdhury
Labour and Manpower—Mohammad Nurunnabi Chand
Education—Nitai Roy Chowdhury
Food—Mohammad Korban Ali
Jute—Mohammad Abdul Momin Mondol

India

Naval Force Manuevers Near Sri Lanka 'Routine'
BK1907071089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0652 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 19 (AFP)—India's latest aircraft carrier is scheduled to begin sea exercises this week in the Arabian Sea amid reports that the manoeuvres would take it and a small naval taskforce close to Sri Lankan waters.

Official naval sources here said the British-built carrier INS Virat will set sail from its base off the Bombay coast and conduct exercises up to Cochin, on the country's southwestern tip.

India bought the British c
35 million dollars and re
with vertical take-off sea
copters, missiles and so
equipment.

"Naturally, the trials wo
(sailing time) from Sri La
told AGENCE FRANCE-
be accompanied by at lea

The sources said the exer
seven to 10 days but coul

An official Indian Navy s
Virat was due to set sail
trial" aimed at testing th
machinery in mid-ocean.

INS Virat would be accon
including a tanker, the sp
disclose the class of the
Unconfirmed reports said
a heavily-armed frigate.

The official said the Virat
kilometres (24 to 30 miles
Arabian Sea to test mac
been tested in port.

New Delhi's decision to st
trial follows India's reject
Ranasinghe Premadasa's
out of the island nation by

Prime Minister Rajiv Ga
fulfill his promises to the is
a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lank
antees devolution of powe
has also told Colombo tha
drawal of the 45,000-stron
(IPKF) will have to be
discussions.

It has also warned that if Sr
its deadline India could "u
out schedule.

Defence Ministry sources
drawal of the IPKF could
three months and that atter
a quicker pullout could co
rity on its other borders.

New Delhi maintains a
India's frontiers with Chi
border disputes that have
bitter wars with its two nei

arrier Hermes two years ago for
named it Virat. It is equipped
Harrier fighters, combat heli-
phisticated electronic warfare

uld bring Virat a few hours
anka," one senior naval source
PRESSE, adding that it would
st three other naval ships.

cises would last for a period of
d give no more details.

pokesman confirmed that the
but said it was on a "routine
e vessel's turbines and other

npanied by two or three ships,
pokesman said but refused to
other two ships in the force.
at least one of them would be

would sail between 40 and 50
s) off the Bombay coast in the
hinery which had previously

tage the high-profile naval sea
tion of Sri Lankan President
demand that it pull its troops
y July 29.

ndhi has said he would first
sland's minority Tamils under
kan peace accord which guar-
ers to the Tamils. New Delhi
at any timetable for the with-
g Indian Peace Keeping Force
worked out through mutual

ri Lanka refuses to budge from
unilaterally" decide on a pull-

here say that a phased with-
not be achieved in less than
mpts to mobilise transport for
mpromise the country's secu-

heavy military presence on
ina and Pakistan because of
taken the country into four
ighbours since 1947.

New Delhi deployed the IPKF in July of 1987, after which the most powerful Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), repudiated the accord, and intense fighting broke out in October.

More than 2,000 LTTE rebels and 1,000 Indian soldiers have since died in fighting in the country's predominantly Tamil northeast, and in April of this year the Premadasa government began talks with the LTTE.

Gandhi Committed to Security of Sri Lankan Tamils

BK1807133089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 18 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Tuesday [18 July] reaffirmed India's commitment to the security of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and said Colombo should understand what that means.

Mr. Gandhi's remarks to Congress (I) parliamentarians were seen as yet another reaffirmation by the Indian premier that he would not bow to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa's call that India's 45,000 troops be pulled out of the island by the end of July.

"It was India that persuaded Tamils to give up their demand for an independent state and lay down their weapons," Mr. Gandhi said referring to the 1987 peace treaty he signed with Mr. Premadas's predecessor Junius Jayewardene. "As guarantor (of the) terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, India has given Tamils a commitment and it will stand by it," he added.

Tamils, he said, had given up their demands for full independence only after India had guaranteed that powers would be devolved to them so that they could live in security and with dignity. [passage omitted]

Committee Backs Government on Sri Lanka Policy

BK1307154189 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1448 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] The Consultative Committee of Parliament attached to the Ministry of External Affairs at its meeting on the 10th of July 1989 under the chairmanship of the external affairs minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, "placed on record its deep appreciation of the selfless and dedicated services rendered by the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] in Sri Lanka, in extremely difficult conditions and also expressed its gratitude for the sacrifices made by the Indian Peace Keeping Force."

This resolution of the committee commending the role of the IPKF was passed in the context of a detailed and comprehensive presentation made by the external affairs minister on the situation in Sri Lanka. The external affairs minister emphasised that earlier this year, consultations with the Sri Lankan Government for a phased

withdrawal of the IPKF, linked with increasing devolution of powers to the North-Eastern provincial government, had begun. When he met the Sri Lankan foreign minister in Harare, these consultations were continued and the visit of the Sri Lankan foreign minister to India as part of this process was also discussed.

The external affairs minister said that a time-frame for completing the process described above, which both the Government of India and the Sri Lankan Government found reasonable, was jelling. Then, suddenly came the demand of President Premadasa in his speech of 1st June. The external affairs minister in his presentation, underlined the importance of negotiations and mutual consultation as a basic pre-requisite for continuing the twin processes of withdrawal of the IPKF and implementation of certain aspects of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord. All members of the committee, without exception, agreed that there could be no question of withdrawal based on a unilateral demand from one party to the accord; they were also agreed that there could be no withdrawal without [words indistinct] implementation of essential aspects of the accord, such as devolution of power and the setting up of a viable framework, for the governance of the North-Eastern Province.

Some members congratulated the government and the country for the restraint shown, despite the provocation offered by the unilateral demand made for withdrawal of the IPKF. Several members also made reference of the "saner elements within Sri Lanka who had expressed their abhorrence for the unilateral deadlines set by the Sri Lankan president". Other members referred to the general consensus in India that the government's response to the developing situation in Sri Lanka has been "both responsible and positive".

There was also agreement that it was not in order for Sri Lanka to have made a bilateral issue a matter of debate and dispute at multilateral forums, including at the recent meeting of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] at Islamabad.

In supporting government on the stand taken by it, many members spoke of the need to pay due heed to India's security concerns. There was wide-spread recognition in India and abroad that by entering into accord, India and Sri Lanka jointly had pre-empted the entry of third power into the region. Mention was made in this context of the appreciation expressed for the accord and role it has played in bringing stability to the region by leaders in the United States, the United Kingdom, the USSR and at the Commonwealth summit.

All members urged the government to continue its process of consultation and some pleaded that India ought not to "abdicate our duties undertaken legitimately in accord with the international law."

All members without exception said that the country supported the role that the IPKF has played and that the Indian force had won admiration of the people at large. The objectives which promoted India to send the Army in, viz., the upholding of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka and ensuring the safety of the Tamil population in the northern parts of the country, were widely acclaimed. It was recognised that it was the IPKF which had been able to persuade several Tamil groups to lay down their arms on the promise that devolution would be granted.

There was general recognition amongst the members of the committee that the Sri Lankan Government in issuing its ultimatum had been prompted primarily by domestic considerations and that this unilateral demand for the withdrawal of the IPKF by a particular date was "unjustified" and "unreasonable"

Minister Explains Policy on Treaties With Nepal

BK1907092689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] India is in constant touch with Nepal on resolving the present stalemate in relations between the two countries. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, told the Rajya Sabha during question hour today that the matter has been taken up by the prime minister himself and by the external affairs minister, besides at the official level. The minister regretted that there has been no positive response from Nepal.

Mr Natwar Singh said that the external affairs minister had suggested a broad based agenda in his communication to the foreign minister of Nepal last month to review Indo-Nepal relations, including the working of the 1950 Treaty of Friendship and the trade and transit treaties. He said Nepal does not want to discuss overall relationship and wants to restrict the discussions to trade and transit treaties only. He said India is ready to give most favored nation status to Nepal and pointed out that it will not be advantageous to Nepal as it is already enjoying more favors.

Replying to the main question, the minister said there is no official ban preventing the entry of Indian newspapers into Nepal. He, however, said that certain informal instructions have resulted in nonentry of Indian newspapers.

Joint Commission Meeting With Pakistan Noted

BK1907032889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan has decided to more than double the number of items which could be imported from India by its private sector. This is one of the major decisions taken by the third [meeting of the] India-Pakistan joint commission on the first day of its 2-day meeting in Islamabad yesterday. The commission's decision will be announced later today when a cultural protocol for 3

years would also be signed. The joint commission also finalized proposals for greater exchanges in economic, commercial, and science and technology sectors.

The Pakistani president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, told the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, who called on him, that his government intended to increase the list of items for trade to 700.

In his opening speech at the inauguration of the joint commission [meeting], Mr Rao called upon Pakistan to be bold and shed its hesitation in extending cooperation to the core economic sectors. The Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in his statement said the new programs and proposals to be considered and adopted at the meeting would further consolidate the India-Pakistan relationship.

Commentary on Outcome of Gandhi's Pakistan Visit
BK1807111789 Delhi General Overseas English 1010 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Kewal Verma commentary]

[Text] After about 30 years, the Indian prime minister went to Pakistan on an official visit. These were not very happy 30 years in the relations between the two countries. In this period there were two wars between the two countries. The military rulers of Pakistan were not too keen to have normal relations with India. When military dictatorship ended and democracy dawned in Pakistan, India whole-heartedly welcomed the development in the neighboring country. There were hopes that a new leaf of normal relations would be turned in the history of the two countries.

It was expected the positive process would be reinforced with the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The initial utterings of the new young democratically elected prime minister of Pakistan, Ms Benazir Bhutto, were very assuring. India made solid gestures to help usher in a new dawn in this region. It cancelled normal military exercise on the border of Pakistan. It cut its defense budget. It agreed to defuse the tension in the Siachen Glacier region.

After preparing this ground, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi undertook the official visit to Pakistan. There were great expectations of a major breakthrough during this visit. But these expectations were not fulfilled to any substantial measure. Apart from the Siachen issue, there are three major irritants in relations between the two countries. These are, first—the Kashmir question, second—Pakistan's help to terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir, and third—the Pakistan-U.S. strategic concensus.

It would be unrealistic to expect any quick solution of the Kashmir dispute. The only realistic solution could be conversion of the existing cease-fire line into international borders. It appears that Ms Benazir Bhutto does not feel confident to start preparing public opinion in Pakistan to accept any reasonable solution of the Kashmir dispute.

India has been understandably most resentful of Pakistan's assistance to terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir. It appears that apart from expressing pious intentions, Ms Bhutto has not been able to stop Pakistan intelligence agencies from aiding terrorists in India. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was expressing his disappointment when at a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Bhutto he said: We seek an end to actions aimed at infringing our integrity. We believe you have the will and the strength to stop it.

Again on arrival from Islamabad, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told press correspondents at Delhi Airport that Ms Bhutto had assured him to take action, but the flow of arms to terrorists had not stopped.

It was accepted that after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Pakistan, in the interest of peace and tranquillity in the subcontinent, would downgrade its military relationship with the United States. But it was not to be so. It now transpired that the main objective of Ms Bhutto's visit to the United States was to finalize a big package of most sophisticated arms. The package consists of 60 F-16 fighter bombers, 100 main battle tanks, a large number of armed personnel carriers and 155-mm self-propelled guns. What is most disturbing is that in addition to continued supplies of most sophisticated conventional arms, President Bush gave indications that the United states would turn a blind eye to Pakistan's nuclear program.

At a press conference in Islamabad, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program was under military control. A top American expert Leonard Specter has recently confirmed that Pakistan has materials on hand to assemble 5 to 10 nuclear weapons, each requiring 33 pounds of enriched uranium. But the United States is least bothered about it. Earlier, Washington used to demand from Pakistan to give a pledge that it would not enrich weapon-grade uranium above 5 percent. But now it has dropped that demand. In order to continue military aid to Pakistan, President Bush by October should certify that Islamabad does not possess nuclear weapons. In a recent Senate panel hearing, an assistant secretary of state was asked whether the administration was in position to recommend to the President to give such a certificate. He replied: Right now, I am not in a position to pull the information together to file such a recommendation to the President.

Audit Report on Bofors Gun Deal Released

BK1807170089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The comptroller and auditor general [CAG] has criticized certain aspects of the evaluation and acquisition of the 155-mm howitzer gun. The audit report of the comptroller and auditor general was presented in the Lok Sabha today by the minister of state for finance, Mr Ajit Panja.

The report critically examines aspects of the Bofors purchase relating to the weapon's technical evaluation, ammunition, financial evaluation, the question of agents and fulfillment of contracts by the company.

The report takes note of the significant conclusions of the joint parliamentary committee [JPC] which went into the purchase of the gun, but says that the audit has been conducted in discharge of constitutional obligations. According to the report, the technical evaluation of the gun system and ammunition suffered from deficiencies. However, it says that the CAG's attention was drawn to the JPC's conclusion that all the procedures were duly followed and the decision to place the Bofors gun over the French gun was intrinsically sound.

The report says that the deliberations of the negotiating committee suffered from certain constraints. It also takes note of the Defense Ministry denying that the committee was handicapped in its deliberations.

The report also says that a categorical written assurance from Bofors was not obtained that the procurement will be directly from manufacturer without any agents.

The report acknowledges that the Defense Ministry had warned all bidders orally in May 1985. On the 10th of March 1986, Bofors had clarified its position regarding [name indistinct] General Corporation.

In a statement, members of Parliament who are members of the JPC said that they had gone in depth into the entire circumstances pertaining to the finalization of the contract for the supply of the 155 mm howitzers. The statement says the observations of the report are incorrect in many respects and seem to create inaccurate impression in regard to several others. The members pointed out that despite the comprehensive technical evaluation of the gun system, the audit has concluded that the process suffered from deficiencies. On various considerations the JPC had absolutely no hesitation in commending the skill with which the negotiating committee generated sustained competition between various manufacturers. The JPC also acknowledged the enormous price reduction which the committee was able the achieve.

The statement says that JPC had found it as an incontrovertable fact that all the suppliers had been duly cautioned not to employ agents or middlemen and that the negotiations were directly conducted with the suppliers without the intervention of any agents.

The JPC members said that the CAG report is misleading and tendentious. The report seems to be selective and biased on many counts about all essential questions pertaining to selection, suitability, price, and contract provisions. They said the then secretary of expenditure—himself a distinguished official of the audit and accounts service—had categorically stated that from the point of view of technical or financial or commercial factors, Bofors' offer had a distinct advantage over the French (Sasma) offer.

The members said that the then Army chief, General Sunderji, had clarified that after it was known that Pakistan had received fire-locating radar from the U.S.A., the shoot-and-scoot capabilities of the Bofors guns measured the best for our security needs. Similarly, on the financial arrangements, the statement says it was clearly established by the financial authorities in both the Defense and Finance Ministries that the Bofors system was cheaper than the French one by 98 crore rupees, even without reckoning the additional saving of 36 crore rupees on account of the fewer crew required. It was in consideration of these facts that the financial terms were approved by the then finance secretary and the finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh.

The members pointed out that the comptroller and auditor general had declined to assist the JPC when called upon to do so. They said one can only conclude that this was primarily due to a desire to stick to preconceived notions about the Bofors purchase. The members also demanded immediate discussion of the contents of the audit report.

The signatories to the statement include Mr J.N. Kaushal, Mrs Jayanti Natarajan, Mr Asutosh Low, Mr Y.S. Mahajan, Mr N.C. Parachar, and Mr P.K. Thubwan.

Parliamentary Opposition Reacts

BK1907093889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] The comptroller and auditor general's [CAG] report on the Bofors gun deal figured prominently in both Houses of Parliament today leading to adjournment of the houses. The Lok Sabha was adjourned till 1400, while the Rajya Sabha adjourned for half an hour amidst noisy scenes.

Immediately after question hour most of the opposition members were up on their feet in the Lok Sabha and sought to raise the CAG report. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, assured the members that he was prepared to allow any discussion on any subject but it should be

according to the rules. Not heeding the speaker's persuasion, opposition members kept on shouting and nothing of what they said could be heard in the din. There were some counter-shouts from the ruling benches also. This continued for nearly 15 minutes and the opposition then resorted to raising slogans against the government. This provoked some ruling party members to rush to the well of the house, but they were persuaded by the minister of parliamentary affairs, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat; the minister of state, Mrs Sheila Dikshit; and a few other ministers to go back to their seats. The speaker then adjourned the house till 1400.

In the Rajya Sabha, the CAG report was laid on the table by the minister of state for finance, Mr B.K. Gadhvi, soon after question hour. Opposition members were up on their feet at once alleging that the report had indicted the government. They started criticizing the government and much of what they said could not be heard in the din.

The chairman, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, called on the opposition to observe the rules and procedures while raising matters. He told them that shouting will not solve any purpose.

At one stage, the leader of the house, Mr Shiv Shankar, said that the government is prepared for a discussion at any time on the subject.

This did not pacify the opposition, who continued to indulge in shouting. There were shouts and counter-shouts from ruling and opposition benches for nearly half an hour and the deputy chairman, Mrs Najma Heptulla, who was in the chair, then adjourned the house for half an hour.

When the Rajya Sabha reassembled at 1300, opposition members did not allow the business to proceed. Some of them rushed to the well of the house and started shouting slogans against the government. There were counter-slogans from the treasury benches as some of them moved to the front rows. This continued till the house was again adjourned at 1330 for lunch.

Gandhi Addresses Party Members on Various Issues

BK1807145689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the government is keeping a close watch on the price situation, particular in mass consumption items like sugar. Mr Gandhi said appropriate measures would be taken to keep the price situation under control. The public distribution system would be strengthened. He said a team of officials is currently looking into the matter. Mr Gandhi was addressing a Congress-I party in parliament in New Delhi today. [passage omitted]

The prime minister congratulated the technicians, engineers, and scientists on the successful testing of the Agni [surface-to-surface] missile, and said that India has got a new respect in the eyes of the world.

The prime minister also made it clear that India will not be pressurized to hold talks on the basis of Super 301 [of the U.S. Trade Act].

Referring to his recent visit to France, the USSR, and Pakistan, the prime minister said that he had very good meetings with over 30 heads of state and government.

On Sri Lanka, the prime minister asserted that as a guarantor in terms of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement, India has given Tamils a commitment which it will stand by.

On relations with Nepal, the prime minister said that India is prepared to give Nepal the most favored nation treatment.

About his talks with the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, Mr Gandhi said that the Pakistan Government has taken a positive attitude on issues like involvement in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

The prime minister said that relations with China have improved.

30,000 Being Moved From Missile Test Range

BK0807162289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] In Orissa, several special schemes are underway to rehabilitate the people required to be shifted for setting up the national [missile] test range at Baliapal. Disclosing this to newsmen in New Delhi today, the chief minister, Mr J.B. Patnaik, said besides monetary compensation, one member of each displaced family will be given a job. Housing sites and ready-made houses will also be provided. He said a fishing harbor is being constructed near Baliapal to accommodate the local population, and other developmental projects have also been taken up.

Mr Patnaik said the number of persons required to be shifted has been reduced to 30,000 from 72,000. He expressed confidence that the people of the area will be successfully persuaded to accept the project as it was done in the case of the Agni missile firing at Chandipur. In fact, the people have started realizing the necessity of building a test range. The chief minister announced that the state will have a new industrial policy soon to consolidate the vast industrial gains attained during the last decade. Mr Patnaik said the total central allocation under the Jawahar rozgar yojna [employment scheme] has already been distributed among the panchayats [village councils] and they have drawn up employment plans through gram sabhas [village committees].

New Governors Appointed for Mizoram, Meghalaya
BK0407144289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Captain W.A. Sangma is to be the governor of Mizoram. Mr A.A. Rahim has been appointed governor of Meghalaya. Mr Harideo Joshi, who was governor of both Meghalaya and Assam, will now be the governor of Assam only. The appointments were announced in a Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique today.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Asks Austria About Diplomat
NC1907055289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, informed sources in our Foreign Ministry say that Iran has requested clarification of the position of the Iranian diplomat who was present during the terrorist actions against the team involved in talks in Vienna. These actions culminated in the killing of [Kurdish leader] Qasemlu and the wounding of an Iranian diplomat. As a result of pressure by counter-revolutionaries and at their suggestion, the Austrian police have issued an order to arrest two Iranian diplomats. At present, there is no information on the missing Iranian diplomat, and it is possible that he has been arrested by the Austrian police or has been murdered. This source categorically demanded clarification of the Iranian diplomat's situation.

Austria Urged To Protect Injured Envoy
LD1707115489 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Vienna condemned Thursday's terrorist attack in the Austrian capital and urged the Austrian Government to protect an Iranian diplomat wounded in the incident.

Three persons including Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (Iran) leader 'Abdol Rahman Qasemlu were killed and an Iranian diplomat was seriously wounded. The two others were Qasemlu's deputy 'Abdollah Qaderi Azari, and representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Mahmud Rasul Fazl who acted as mediator between the outlawed KDP and Iran for the safe return to Iran of the KDP members and an end to hostilities in Iranian Kurdistan.

"The attack was carried out by the elements who feared the outcome of the talks would be against their illegal measures of exploiting the Kurdish people," said the embassy in a statement released Sunday.

It said certain Iranian Kurdish groups who cooperated with the Iraqi regime, informed the Islamic Republic through some Iraqi Kurds that they are ready to change their policy and wanted to talk with Iran.

The statement also urged the Austrian Government to seriously follow up the matter and employ special security measures to protect the life of the wounded Iranian diplomat.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani To Send Envoy to U.S.
LD1907095289 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radioin Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Our comrades-in-arms have reported from Tehran that 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani intends to send Dr Ebrahim Yazdi, a member of the Freedom Movement and a colleague of Engineer Mehdi Bazargan to the United States, to hold talks with U.S. officials on ways of (?reaching a compromise). According to the report, the preliminary steps for Dr Yazdi's trip to the United States have already been taken. Our comrades-in-arms add: Eng Mehdi Bazargan, the leader of the Freedom Movement, has given up on the Islamic Republic and evaluates Rafsanjani as an opportunist politician. Eng Mehdi Bazargan (?has not commented) on Ebrahim Yazdi's trip to the United States.

New Envoy Appointed to Kuwait in Upgrade of Ties
LD1807164789 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 18, IRNA—Kuwait has agreed to the appointment of Hoseyn Sadeqi as the new Iranian ambassador to that Persian Gulf state, daily AL-RAY AL-'AMM reported today.

Sadeqi, who is currently the Foreigh Ministry Director General for Persian Gulf Affairs, had earlier headed the Islamic Republic consulate in Jeddah before the Saudi regime's snapping of ties.

Last month, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wrote a letter to his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad last month, expressing Iran's readiness to upgrade mutual ties with the Iraqi regime's wartime ally.

Following the Islamic revolution's triumph in Iran, Kuwait had recalled its ambassador, and in 1984 Tehran reduced its diplomatic mission in that state to charge d'affaires level.

Ambassador 'Ali Ahani Returns to France
LD1807180589 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Paris, July 18, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador 'Ali Ahani returned to Paris today, a month after his counterpart Christian Graef arrived in Tehran.

Misled by Britain, France and other states which form the (West) European Community (EC) had withdrawn their envoys from Tehran following Imam Khomeyni's just death sentence last February against the apostate Salman Rushdie who authored "The Satanic Verses."

Islamic Iran which snapped ties with Britain due to the latter's shocking support for a criminal, followed suit and recalled its ambassadors from EC capitals.

But with worldwide support for the imam's fatwa [religious decree], EC states had to eat the humble pie and quietly started sending back their envoys to Tehran, the last to do so being West Germany and France.

Possible 'Revision' of UK Policy on Rushdie
LD2206125589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] As the protests of England's Muslims against the publication of "The Satanic Verses" continues, a high court in that country considered as legitimate the request put forward by Muslims to extend the anti-blasphemy laws to include Islam. The anti-blasphemy law at present only applies to the church and Christianity. The Muslim lawyers, acting on behalf of England's Muslim associations, submitted an appeal to that country's court after the publication of "The Satanic Verses." The lawyers are hopeful that through legal channels they may finally succeed in preventing further publication of that book and bring about grounds for legal procedures against the author and publishers. The lawyers' application, which in the early days of Muslim protests was rejected in preliminary court hearings, has been accepted by the high court at a time when the Muslims' protests and street rallies are still continuing. [passage omitted]

It seems that in the view of the fact that everyone has conceded that the book is insulting—even the English officials have confessed to that—and in view of the harm which has been done to that country's reputation and political standing due to its irrational support for "The Satanic Verses," grounds for revision of the policies of London's conservative government have now appeared.

While the return of EEC envoys to Tehran has put England in isolation, rendering that country the greatest loser in the whole affair, perhaps one can consider the British High Court's announcement allowing the extension of the anti-blasphemy law as a step aimed at correcting previous stances—a step in the direction of respecting the sacred feelings of Muslims. And it will not be interpreted as a move against freedom of expression. In any case, the English government must answer the question: Does it consider freedom of writing and expression as a pretext for slander and insult or not?

Press Marks Anniversary of Airbus Downing
LD0307112389 Tehran IRNA in English 1111 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—A Persian daily today said the U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger plane last year and its subsequent developments indicated that repetition of such a crime by the U.S. was likely in any corner of the world.

An Iranian Airbus A-300 with 290 passengers and crew aboard was missiled down by American cruiser USS Vincennes this day in 1988 while flying from Bandar Abbas to Dubai along the international commercial corridor over the Persian Gulf.

Urging world countries to counter U.S. brutalities, JOMHURI ISLAMI said in its editorial that the U.S. always tried to solve its problems by resorting to "state terrorism."

"The fact that the U.S. is not ready to accept the responsibility of its big and intentional crime indicates that such a measure is acceptable in Washington's political culture which corresponds with crime and brutality." The daily warned the world community that the U.S. wanted to impose the "law of jungle" which it described as a major axis in the U.S. foreign policy, upon the world community under a new definition.

Such brutal acts could not be considered an honour for the U.S., said the daily, adding that its name became synonymous with state terrorism, crime, genocide and brutality everywhere. "This is a great disgrace for the U.S. that any brutal crime committed anywhere is somehow attached to U.S."

Meanwhile, the Persian daily ABRAR said that with the culmination of the Islamic Revolution on Feb. 11, 1979, the U.S. changed its policy towards Iran and stood against the Iranians who cut off its hand from their homeland.

The wrath in the heart of the Iranian nation caused by years of U.S. intervention in Iran turned to a "sacred enmity" towards the U.S. after the Airbus catastrophe, it reminded.

"The Iranian nation will never forget U.S. crimes," said the daily, "the U.S. disgraced itself before the Iranian nation which would not be extinguished without the elimination of U.S. criminals, ABRAR said.

Tehran Radio Notes U.S. Compensation Decision
LD1807220189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The U.S. Administration has announced that it is prepared to pay compensation to the families of all the 290 persons who were killed in the attack by the U.S. Navy warship in the Persian Gulf on the Iranian passenger airliner last year.

UPI reports from Washington that the U.S. State Department spokesperson said: The payment of the money will be made to the governments of the six countries of Iran, India, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, Pakistan, and Yugoslavia—countries whose nationals were killed.

According to the report, the
announced that it is ready to pay
families of those passengers who
full-time capacity and $100,000
victims.

nited States has
250,000 each to the
ere employed in a
each of the other

Turkey 'Willing' To Resume C
LD1807112989 Tehran IRNA in E
18 Jul 89

de Oil Imports
lish 1035 GMT

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—An
five million tons of Iranian crude
visiting Turkish official following
Ministry Tuesday.

ara is willing to buy
il annually, said a
meeting at the Oil

Minister in Oil Affairs Ilhan Askin
desire to resume oil imports from
Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazade

expressed Turkey's
ran after talks with

According to the Oil Ministry's pr
Aqazadeh expressed Tehran's reac
requested amount of crude and exp
ties would be further strengthened

Tuesday.
lic relations office
ness to deliver the
essed hope mutual
d developed.

No information was immediately a
this meant that a price dispute had

ailable on whether
een solved.

Iran was to export six million tons
year according to an agreement sign

f oil to Turkey this
d last September.

Askin arrived here at the head of a
night.

delegation Monday

He said in the meeting with Aqaza
wanted to expand and consolidate
and trade ties with Iran.

eh that his country
bilateral economic

Turkey Reportedly Expells 1,500 K
LD1907091589 Tehran IRNA in En
19 Jul 89

urdish Refugees
lish 0900 GMT

["1,500 Kurds Expelled From Turkey
IRNA headline]

Cross Into Iran"—

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarabayjan
IRNA—One person died and two
when 1,500 Kurds were forced to cr
the past two days. The refugees wer
Iran-Turkey border heights and mou

Prov., July 19,
thers were injured
ss into Iran during
wandering on the
ntainous areas.

They are living under bad hygienic co
food in border regions west of her
Turkish Hakkari Province.

nditions with little
e and east of the

They fled their hometowns when Ir
Kurdish-dwelling areas in northern
tially settled in refugee camps in the
ish city of Mardin.

aqi forces bombed
Iraq and were ini-
southeastern Turk-

Over 53,000 Iraqi Kurds are stationed at refugee camps in West Azarbaijan Province, bordering Turkey and Iraq.

U.S. Reaction to Improved Iraqi Ties Noted
LD0607065289 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT
6 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Washington would suffer most if its ties with Baghdad went beyond matters of mutual interest and affected the Persian Gulf region as a whole, an Iranian analyst believes.

Former Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani wrote in the TEHRAN TIMES Thursday that he saw no major obstacle in the way of U.S.-Iraq relations as the latter had radically changed its foreign policy in favor of an alliance with pro-Western Arab states.

"But the minute it goes beyond the two countries and expands itself for some role in the Persian Gulf and the Arab world, it is the beginning of another catastrophie in the region," he said.

"Here I believe it will be the Americans who pay the highest price."

According to Larijani there were different views among American politicians toward relations with Iraq. Some consider Iraq a threat to U.S. interests in the region, others want to make a "shah" out of Saddam.

The latter scenario may be wishful thinking on the part of the Americans but if it happened it would be a "disaster for peace and stability of the region," Larijani stressed.

There was also the possibility that the Americans could develop, by a reasonable pace, extensive relations with Iraq and "at some stage... get rid of Saddam and find a more reliable fellow to function in Baghdad."

Velayati on Ties With USSR, Other Countries
LD1807142789 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT
18 Jul 89

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbayjan Prov., July 18, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday denied that the recent expansion of ties with Moscow was a breach of Tehran's neither-East-nor-West policy and rejected the propaganda of the enemies to this effect.

Velayati who is a pediatrician is currently here together with a number of other ministers, to supervise a medical entrance examination.

He also stressed that promotion of ties with the Soviet Union did not mean rejection of relations with other countries.

The foreign minister noted that the country's progress in industrial, technological and military fields calls for ties with developed countries "within the framework of defined policies."

Pointing to the recent visit of Majlis Spaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Soviet Union, Velayati said upgrading of Tehran-Moscow ties has upset the balance in the region. "We must follow these developments with alertness and use them to our own advantage," he added.

The new development, he said, has become a matter of concern for the West to the extent that Washington has openly warned Moscow against improving ties with Tehran. Furthermore, certain Arab countries, Iraq in particular, have expressed concern over the recent developments.

Commentary on U.S. Reaction to USSR Visit

LD2506224989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Commentary: "The Reflection of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's USSR Visit in Western Countries"]

[Text] The visit of the high-ranking Iranian delegation to the USSR led by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has caused some reactions in the capital cities of Western countries. Among them, the U.S. Government has shown more sensitivity in the face of this visit, so much so that the U.S. secretary of state, James Baker, in a speech addressing the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, raised Washington's stand in this connection. In his remarks, referring to the Iran-USSR cooperation, Baker stated the U.S. sensitivity toward some aspects of the cooperation, particularly in the defense field.

The most interesting part of the remarks made by the U.S. secretary of state is the policy of the U.S. Governemnt vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been pursued since the Islamic revolution victory. In the past 10 years, since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the United States has always pursued its long-term policy of imposing sanctions on the Islamic revolution and preventing the expansion and infiltration of its message. And along with this policy, it has employed every political, economic, and miltary lever. The most important examples of these levers are the initiation of the Iraqi war against Iran, the economic embargo, the military presence in the Persian Gulf, and the attempt to isolate Iran. The latest move took place at a time when even the Western analysts and political advisors of the Western governments evaluate such methods and policies as being unsuccessful.

After the acceptance of UN Resolution 598 and the start of the reconstruction period, some Western capital cities and Washington, while maintaining their past objectives, thought about exploiting the newly created opportunities and in the midst of these, are trying to limit Iran's cooperation with other countries as far as possible. It is for the same reason that a U.S. official says: All partners should observe caution in their relations with Iran. It is clear, however, that the meaning of caution in the eyes of the U.S. Government is mostly related to that country's objectives and hostile policies against Iran. No doubt all those countries that have legitimate objectives and policies in the expansion of their ties with Iran, have no reason to observe caution in a way described by the Americans, and will act independently to expand relations and bilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual interests and safe-guarding each other's rights.

U.S., Zionist Moves at ILO Meeting Defeated

LD1807055789 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The U.S. and its Western allies tasted another bitter defeat at the 76th session of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), when Islamic Iran's initiative against the Baha'i heresy was fully backed by Muslim, non-aligned and Latin American states, said the Labour Ministry director general for international affairs here today.

Hassan Tizmaghz in a press conference said that despite the open support of the U.S., Britain and the Zionist regime for the heretics, the Iranian move defeated attempts to grant the Baha'is a membership at the ILO.

The other success for Iran at the session, he said, was Deputy Labour Minister Ahmad Moshiriyan's highly informative speech, which thwarted a premeditated condemnation of the allegedly deteriorating working conditions in Iran. The success was all the more commendable, in view of the fact that, some industrialised countries like Italy and Poland had a narrow escape, he said.

At the conference, held in Geneva June 7-28, the Iranian team had "fruitful" talks with ILO Director General Francis Blanchard, and representatives of nine of the participant countries, Tizmaghz said.

He also noted that a group of experts led by director of the ILO Rehabilitation Department will come to Iran next Wednesday to help technical and vocational training of the disabled. Some dlrs. three million will be invested in this sector, he added.

Amal, Hizballah Leaders Meet With IRNA Chief

LD1807190889 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—Lebanese Justice Minister and head of the Amal Movement Nabih Birri, Hizballah leader Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli as well as a group of

Amal and Hizballah officials visited the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY here Tuesday and discussed the Lebanese issue with its chief Dr. Kamal Kharrazi.

Pointing to the attempt of global imperialism in bringing Lebanon under its domination and spread its propaganda network in the country, Birri underlined the important role IRNA played in conveying the voice of Islamic Lebanon to the whole world Muslims.

He said the Amal Movement had various cultural-propaganda branches in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Islamic world, particularly in Africa. He added with the expansion of IRNA bureaus in other parts of the world, especially in Africa, Amal and IRNA could have constructive cultural cooperation in raising the Lebanese issue.

Dr. Kharrazi, referring to the good ties between the Lebanese Shi'ites and Iranian Muslims before and after the 1979 Islamic revolution, said there was a deep relationship between Iran's Islamic community and the Lebanese Shi'ites even before the revolution.

He cited Imam Musa Sadr and Dr. Mostafa Chamran as two Iranian Shi'ite leaders who had been absorbed in the Lebanese society. After the revolution, he added, the interest between the two countries reached its peak so that at the moment Lebanon is part of the cradle of the Islamic revolution.

Dr. Kharrazi pointed out now that the Iraqi imposed war against Iran has come to an end, the trend of the events is such that Lebanon has been turned to a war front between unbelief and Islam. "It is our duty not to be far from this front," he said.

The IRNA chief said the present war in Lebanon is between imperialism and the Islamic revolution and the trend of the event is such that the future of the Islamic revolution depends on the victory of the Islamic revolution in Lebanon. "Iraq which was at war with us for long years, has now been assigned a new task by imperialism in Lebanon."

He also said the IRNA office in Beirut was one of the most active bureaus and promised to take measures in setting up more offices particularly in Africa "in order to achieve our Islamic-revolutionary duties in the best manner possible."

Birri agreed with Kharrazi that a united Islamic leadership was the only way to victory and said "that is why we are here to vow allegiance to Ayatollah Khamene'i."

He said a big plot was in the offing in Lebanon—the Israelis in the south and Iraqis in the north through Michel 'Awn have encircled the Muslim and nationalist forces.

Shaykh al-Tufayli said before the Islamic revolution the West thought Islam was on the verge of destruction but the imam foiled this scheme and inspired new hopes in Muslims.

In conclusion of the meeting Birri and Al-Tufayli answered questions posed by the IRNA officials.

Lebanese Shi'ite Leader Meets Musavi-Ardabili

LD1907073989 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—The chief justice in a meeting with the vice chairman of Lebanon's Supreme Shi'ite Council pledged Iran's support for the struggle of Lebanese Muslims against the Zionist regime.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili also told Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din that it was necessary for Lebanese groups fighting the Zionist occupation forces to maintain their unity.

Shams al-Din was one of many foreign dignitaries who attended last Thursday's ceremony marking the end of the 40 day traditional mourning for the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

Expresses Support for Khamene'i

LD1907080189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din, vice president of the Supreme Shi'ite Council of Lebanon, gave an exclusive interview to our reporter today. He said that the heart-rending death of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be in paradise—is a great loss to all the Muslims of the world and said:

The loss of the great leader of the Islamic revolution is also hard for the Muslims of Lebanon, who have continuously displayed their affection for the Islamic Republic of Iran on different occasions and at various times. The well-deserved appointment of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i to the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a divine blessing for all Muslims, notably for the people of Iran, but also for Lebanon's Muslims and politico-religious representations and organizations of this Muslim nation. While presenting their allegiance to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the vali-ye amr of the Muslims, they also declare their support for him.

He added: In our commitment to Islam and Muslims, we shall remain supporters of the Muslims of Iran and of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Ends Visit

LD0307103189 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Tehran Monday morning at the end of a one-day official visit and talks with speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In an interview before departure he said in talks with Iranian officials a wide range of issues including the successful trip to Moscow of Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani were discussed.

Yaqub Khan described the Moscow visit a positive sign in Iran-Soviet ties saying that his country welcomed the development. "We believe it will lead to peace and security in the region," he told IRNA.

He said the Soviet approach to the Afghanistan issue and joint Iran-Pakistan efforts in finding a peaceful solution to the problem were raised in the talks.

Any solution to the issue, he said, must guarantee independence, territorial integrity and the Islamic nature of the country far from any foreign intervention. He added Afghanistan should enjoy good relations with all its neighbouring countries including the Soviet Union, Pakistan and Iran.

In that case, the country will ultimately help bring stability to the region, said Yaqub Khan adding that this objective must be pursued in all these visits and exchange of opinions.

According to Yaqub Khan Afghanistan's neighbours must help find a peaceful and just solution, one which will embody wishes of all the nation, stressing that the Afghans must play the main role in the country's independence.

On his talks with heads of the Iran-based eight party coalition here, he stresed participation and cooperation of both Iran and Pakistan-based groups in settling the crisis.

He also expressed the hope that both groups set aside their differences and work unitedly to assure the country's independence.

Foreign Minister Velayati commenting on the issue reiterated support of Iran and Pakistan for the Afghan people. He said both countries are of the opinion that the future government in the country must be non-aligned, acceptable to the majority of its Muslim population and establish good relations with its neighbors.

Velayati expressed hope that the problems facing the settlement be solved through regional efforts and unity of the Afghan mujahideen.

"Obviously a stable Afghanistan is needed for stability of the region," he said adding that the people of the country need a comprehensive political and economic reconstruction after nine years of heroic struggle.

Velayati said he hoped measures would be taken for return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland to take part in a government acceptable to the majority.

He said Iran and Pakistan must continue contacts to discuss regional affairs and on top of all the Afghanistan issue.

The recent trip to Moscow by Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the following developments requires the regional developments be discussed with Pakistan, said Velayati.

DPRK Official Meets Musavi, Discusses Ties

LD1807054889 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The visiting chairman of the National Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) supported Iran's stand on the precise implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to Iraq-Iran hostilities. He also called for immediate withdrawal of foreign forces, especially the U.S. fleet, from the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

Yang Hyong-sop, here to attend commemoration ceremonies of Imam Khomeyni, made the remarks in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Monday [17 July] afternoon.

He expressed confidence that the revolutionary spirit the late imam inspired in the people will for ever remain in the hearts of the Iranians.

Thanking the DPRK people and government for their sympathy, Prime Minister Musavi said the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will never forget sincere cooperation of the two countries during the (Iraq-Iran) war time.

Musavi referred to the "deep impact" of the May visit of President 'Ali Khamene'i to Pyongyang and expressed confidence that bilateral relations will further promote in future.

SDAR Official Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1407085589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Mohamed Amin Ahmad, head of Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] parliament, who is visiting Tehran to participate in the ceremonies marking the 40th day of His Eminence the Imam, may his dust be sanctified, yesterday evening met with the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and expressed condolences at the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that the Saharan nation, like the Iranian nation, mourns His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified. He also gave a report of the Saharan nation's struggle.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly thanked the head of the SDAR parliament for his participation in the ceremonies marking the 40th day of his eminence the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and once more announced Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the Saharan nation's struggles.

Briefs Velayati on Border Dispute

LD1607104189 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Speaker of National Assembly of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) Mohamed al-Amin Ahmad today briefed Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on latest developments in his country's dispute with Morocco.

The SADR official who attended the 40th day ceremony for the late leader of the Islamic revolution, expressed "deep condolences" on behalf of the Sahrawi people and Government.

Velayati, thanking for the Sahrawi people's sympathies over the great loss of Imam Khomeyni, noted that the Islamic Republic since its birth a decade ago has had good relations with SADR and will continue to support the revolutionaries of Sahara.

Mining Accords Signed With Tanzania, Mozambique

LD1807081989 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA—Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi returned home Monday at the end of a four-nation African tour resulting in formal agreements. Speaking to IRNA he said letters of understanding were signed in Tanzania and Mozambique for cooperation in mining.

The agreement with Tanzania covers exchange of geological information and meeting Tanzania's educational needs in mine exploration, geological engineering, geophysics and geochemistry.

In Mozambique, Iran agreed to help in the exploration for and production of titanium (widely used in aircraft manufacture), graphite and gold. Iran also agreed to train 20 mine technicians from Mozambique.

Ayatollahi who also visited Kenya and Zimbabwe said the agreements were within Iran's policy of expanding relations with third world countries.

"It also falls into the framework of Tanzania and Mozambique's wish to expand trade ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

Statement on Benin Foreign Minister's Visit

LD1307140789 Tehran IRNA in English 1351 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Benin and Iran in a joint statement issued here Thursday strongly condemned the Pretoria apartheid regime for its aggressions against African frontline states.

Benin's Guy Landry Hazoume and Iran's 'Ali Akbar Velayati also voiced full support for all anti-apartheid movements in South Africa and for "heroic struggle of the Namibian people under leadership of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO)."

The joint statement was released at the end of a two-day official visit to Tehran of the Beninese minister of foreign affairs and co-operation.

The two sides also expressed satisfaction with the efforts made by the United Nations for Namibia's independence.

The talks, held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, gave the opportunity to the two sides to discuss regional and international issues and other matters of mutual interest, the statement said. It added that the People's Republic of Benin and the Islamic Republic of Iran agreed to expand cooperation in various areas especially in political, economic and cultural fields.

On international issues, the statement quoted the two foreign ministers as voicing support for the struggles of the Afghan and Palestinian nations and for establishment of democracy and peace in Lebanon.

Hazome and Velayati underlined the importance to implement U.N. Resolution 598, citing the withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized border as an important factor for this purpose.

Khomeyni Mourners Show Islam's 'Dynamism'
LD1507080689 Tehran IRNA in English 0752 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—The overflowing waves of mourners at the 40th day after the demise of Imam Khomeyni Thursday proved the "dynamism" and "uncompromising" stance of the Islamic revolution, an Iranian daily commented Saturday.

The English-language TEHRAN TIMES underlined that the event carried messages to friends and foes of the revolution.

To friends, it reiterated the will and determination of the Islamic nation, backed with the support it gets from Muslims and the oppressed masses the world over.

"To the foes, ..., it certainly disappointed the enemies, shattering all their hopes once again for the downfall of the Islamic regime."

It noted that the revolution was not dependent on "any one leader or official" and that "even a loss as grave as that of Imam Khomeyni cannot grind the ever-turning wheel of the Islamic revolution to a halt."

"The nation proved that even in this most agonizing period of grief, what came to have precedence over all other factors was not a personality cult but the Islamic objectives set for the nation by its great teacher Imam Khomeyni," the editorial asserted.

As such, the TEHRAN TIMES said in domestic field everything was set in motion for the next decade of reconstruction, "a period for steering the nation clear of economic problems through a well-thought out all-encompassing plan."

"As for foreign affairs the Republic is as determined as ever to export the culture of its Islamic revolution, to create and corroborate the new consciousness that is sweeping among Muslims and the world's oppressed and deprived."

Meshkini Pledges Allegiance to Khamene'i
LD0307125489 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today said the Islamic revolution has revived an Islamic and brotherly spirit among Muslim nations.

"Today, the Arabs and Muslims in Asia and Africa are proud of being Muslims more than anything else while the global arrogance, particularly the aggressor U.S., which is deeply hostile to Islam, is frightened of an Islamic unity and closeness of Muslims," said the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Addressing a group of visitors from Ilam Province, Ayatollah Khamene'i underlined the need for Muslim nations to maintain unity and said "world Muslims should know that our nation will never forget its divine and Islamic ties with them."

In a separate meeting Monday, President Khamene'i cautioned Friday prayer leaders to carefully watch enemy plots to sow discord among people and officials. He also lauded the Iranian people for their massive presence on the scene which he said had dashed hopes of the enemies to see difference of opinion among officials after Imam Khomeyni's demise.

Friday prayers leaders of Qom Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, on behalf of other Friday prayer leaders and on his own behalf pledged allegiance to Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Masses Declare Allegiance to Khamene'i
LD0507231589 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—Various strata of the masses from places as far apart as Rasht, Juybad, Arak, Ferdows, Khonsar and Bidokht of Gonabad, thronged in front of the office of the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to declare their allegiance.

Also present was Rasht Friday prayer leader Hojjat ol-Eslam Ehsanbakhsh who on behalf of the gathering offered condolences to President Khamene'i on the sad passing away of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni last month.

Ayatollah Khamene'i in return also consoled the visiting citizens on the great loss for the ummah, and reminded his audience [words indistinct] by any person or group.

Toward the end of the meeting, visitors from Khonsar gifted a check to the order of the Office of the President for three million rials (dlrs 40,000) and 85 pieces of precious ornaments including gold and other valuables as contribution to Muslim combatants.

It is worthy of note that among the audience was a group of visitors from the Caspian city of Rasht who had walked all the way to Tehran in mourning garbs, as a mark of respect to the deceased leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic in Iran, Imam Khomeyni, who gave meaning to life.

Prime Minister Musavi Visits Esfahan Steel Mill
LD1807092789 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Esfahan, July 18, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi visited the Esfahan steel mill complex here Tuesday morning to check on progress made in the expansion of the plant.

Musavi heading a delegation, attended a meeting where officials of the complex briefed him on the latest stage in the plans to expand the complex.

The Soviet-designed steel mill produced a record 1.15 million tons last year.

According to agreements reached during Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow last month the Soviets are to help in raising production.

Experts are working to boost output to 1.9 million tons next year when two molding units go into operation.

Minister on Return of Physicians, Health Measures

NC1407111089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Jul 89 p 2

[Text] Tehran—Iranian government is planning to put special facilities at the disposal of Iranian physicians residing abroad if they return home, a top official of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education said here yesterday.

Giving an exclusive interview to the TEHRAN TIMES, Health Minister 'Alireza Marandi further added that in the near future about 150 Iranian physicians now residing in Austria will return home to serve their fellow countrymen.

Severely denying the rumor that imported goods are contaminated by radioactivity, health minister said with the assistance of the Atomic Energy Organization, the ministry examines and controls all such foodstuff to make sure they are not harmful to people's health. As an instance, he said, the ministry has recently returned a cargo of powdered milk suspicious of being contaminated. Therefore, he said people are recommended to use foodstuff without any fear.

Elsewhere, health minister said that due to the high consumption of medicine, Iran is ranked 17th medicine consumer in the world. Perhaps, he added, the problem can be traced to the low price of medicine in Iran. Therefore, the ministry is planning to launch further campaigns against this bad habit in the society. Dr Marandi noted that various steps have been taken by the ministry in the way of developing and promoting health and sanitary measures in Iranian villages. Health clinics, he said, have increased from 2,500 units in 1984 to 8,000 units to date.

On Iran's infant mortality rate, he said according to the statistics in 1984 the rate for the infants under 1 year has been 51 per thousand. However, the rate dropped to 45 per thousand last year. Dr Marandi expressed the hope that with the development of hygenic measures across the country, the rate would be further decreased.

Today, he said, 89 percent of infants below one are vaccinated against such fatal diseases as tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, tetanus, measles, diphtheria and pertussis, whereas 6 years ago the rate was merely 25 percent.

On the ministry's plans on population control, he said once he had asked the late Imam Khomeyni's view on this matter, and he had agreed on the issue of birth control. Therefore, the government today follows imam's view as a forceful policy in this regard.

According to the health minister today three different ministries are active in this field and various contraceptives are imported and available in all drug stores across the country.

Dr Marandi added that Islam forbids abortion, however, if the physicians agree that keeping the baby will be harmful to the mother's health, it can be done.

In conclusion, Dr Marandi expressed hope that with the establishment of more medical schools and employing more medical professors, the problem of lack of physicians in the country would be solved.

Deputy Minister Outlines Industrial Plans

NC2906084289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Jun 89

[Text] The National Industries Organization of Iran [NIOI] has 35 plans and projects on hand, worth an investment of 150 billion rials, in addition to plans for the domestic expansion of companies. Once completed, a sum of $300 million will be saved annually.

Mr Mahru, deputy industries minister and director general of the NIOI, said yesterday: These projects include chemical and pharmaceutical industries, tire and paper manufacturing, and ceramics among others. Of these, 10 projects have been labeled important and the main projects of the revolution.

He added: At present, the NIOI has 250 production companies and 130 trade and services industries, with 140,000 employees and an annual production of approximately 700 billion rials.

He added: The range of products among NIOI enterprises has widened since the beginning of 1981. In addition, the rate of production increased by 60 percent between 1980 and 1985. He added: The foreign exchange used by this organization fell from $1.1 billion in 1982 to $580 million in 1988, a decrease of 53 percent. Despite the reduction in the foreign exchange used by this organization, its production rose by 20 percent in the 1980-88 period [as heard]. Regarding industrial cooperation with Soviet Union, which was agreed upon during the visit by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, he said: Agreement was reached during this visit for a plan to produce radial tires and airplane tires.

New TV Transmitter Commissioned in Qom

LD1707120189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The satellite television transmitter of the Halabestan District in Qom, which has been installed and made operational thanks to the efforts of the [staff of the] television transmitters' expansion unit of the Voice and Vision organization, was commissioned this morning in the presence of the technical deputy [managing director] of that organization.

According to a Central News Unit report, the television transmitter has a power output of 10w and 250w of radation power. It has been installed and made operational in the Halabestan District in Qom and brings the programs of the first network of the television of the Islamic Republic of Iran to 8,000 inhabitants of 21 villages in the district, who have so far been unable to receive television programs.

Results of Constitution's Reappraisal Viewed

LD2206082589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1125 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution [CRC] is actively pursuing its works during its sessions so as to introduce some alterations in accordance with the instructions of Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds. So far this council has managed to approve major changes in the Constitution, including changing the name of the Majlis from National Consultative Assembly to Islamic Consultative Assembly, and centralization of managing boards of the executive and judicial powers. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, the general sessssion of the CRC approved some principles after a lengtgthy debate. These principles have raised the issue of centralization in the country's judicial system. In accordarance with some principles of the Constitution, the supreme judicial power was [previously] performing its task, but the amended version has assigned this task to the head of the judicial power. The head of the judicial power, who should be a mojtahed, fair, and familiar with judicial matters, efficient and good manager, is chosen by the leader for a period of 5 years. On the other hand, the justice minister is in charge of all the issues related to judicial power and its links with the executive and legislative powers, and he is chosen from the individuals presented to the president by the head of the judicial power. The head of the judicial power can entrust the justice minister to assume responsibility for financial, departmental, and non-judicial employment matters. In that case, the justice minister will be empowered with the level of authority that the law has allocated to other ministers, as the highest executive power of their ministry.

In view of the past 10-year record of the country's judicial system, the adoption of this alternative, that is, centralization in the judicial power, has been a very appropriate and timely decision. The experience of the past few years demonstrated that decisionmaking in a consultative manner is a difficult job and this council has been very slow in taking decisions. After the division of tasks in the Supreme Judicial Council, the working speed has multiplied. This amendment of the Constitution increases expectations that the country's judicial issues will be solved at a faster rate. The people's expectation from the honorable members of the CRC is to employ their care and patience in studying the history of the Islamic revolution and how it came through various stages, and to make use of precious experience gained by the state executive system, to approve some firm and resolute principles that can organize society in political, economic, and cultural fields in the best possible manner.

The crucial point is that these alterations and amendments of the Constitution should, as far as possible, become a permanent feature. They should not be a short-term measure applicable to a particular era; they should, rather be comprehensive changes offering suitable methods for solving present and future problems. The honorable members of the CRC are themselves aware of the fact that the Constitution is like a living organism that gives meaning and existence to all other organs. They take note that amendments and alterations should not change the general essence of the law. [passage omitted]

Constitutional Role of President Amended

LD2606195589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] During the 26th general session of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] held this evening the debate continued on the report submitted by the third commission on centralizing the management of the executive power and the following amendments were approved:

1. Article 130: In the event of the president's death, dismissal, resignation, absence or illness lasting over 2 months, or when the president's term of office has ended but a new president has not yet been elected, for whatever reason, or in other, similar circumstances, the first deputy president will assume his authority and take charge of his responsibilities, and a council, comprising the Majlis speaker, the head of the judicial power, and the first deputy president, is dutybound to arrange matters so that a new president is elected within a maximum period of 50 days. Should the first deputy president die or if there are other circumstances which prevent him from performing his duties, another person will be appointed by the leader to take his place. This article is an amalgamation of Articles 130 and 131, and the first deputy of the president will take charge of the president's responsibilities and authority, instead of the interim presidential council. The last part of the article also includes some new points which are added to this article.

2. Article 131 is repealed.

3. Article 132: During the period when the president's first deputy or the person who has replacd him is vested with the president's authority and responsibility, ministers may not be interpellated nor given a vote of no confidence, and no measures can be undertaken to amend the Constitution or to organize a referendum [on the Constitution]. In this article, the first deputy or the person who replaces him replaces the Interim Presidential Council, and the issue of the referendum, which was covered in the repealed Article 131, is covered in this article.

4. Article 133: The ministers are chosen by the president and are presented to the Majlis for its vote of confidence. The number of ministers and each minister's field of authority is determined by the law.

5. Article 134: The chairman of the Council of Ministers is the president who supervises the work of the ministers, and who, by adopting the necessary measures, coordinates the decisions of the ministers and the cabinet. With the cooperation of the ministers, the president determines the government's plan and policy and implements various laws. The president is answerable to the Majlis regarding the actions of the cabinet. The president is also directly in charge of budget and planning affairs and of state administrative and employment issues. In this article the word "prime minister" has been altered to "president", and the sentence beginning: "The president is also in charge of budget and planning...." to the end, has been added. The word "ministers" has also been added after "coordinates the decisions".

Consitution Reappraisal Council Rejects Proposals

NC3006060389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Jun 89

[Text] The 30th general session of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution met yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of Ayatollah Meshkini. At this session, the council continued its deliberations on centralization of management in the executive branch by presenting new proposals. Following speeches for and against, the proposals were not accepted and debate on centralization of management in the executive branch was concluded.

A report by subcommittee No 1 on the leader and the experts of the leadership [khobregan-e rahbari] was presented at the second sitting. Following clarifications by the rapporteur on Article 107, recommendations by members, and speeches by those for and against, the council session was adjourned. Debate is to continue at the next session which is to be held at 0900 on 1 July.

Nepal

Parliament Members Demand Shrestha's Resignation

BK0407031689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Sixty-five members of the Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament] of Nepal have demanded the resignation of the prime minister, Mr Marich Man Singh Shrestha, accusing him of reaping personal benefits out of the current impasse in the Indo-Nepal relations. The members have strongly condemned Mr Shrestha for his failure to solve the crisis in Indo-Nepal relations and broaden the unity among the politicians under the panchayat system.

Parliament Passes Accounts Bill for 1989-90

BK1607123989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Kathmandu, July 16 (AFP)—Despite strong criticism, the Nepalese Parliament has passed the government's 20.24-billion-rupee (736-million-dollars) accounts bill for the 1989-1990 fiscal year starting Sunday [16 July].

The vote Saturday followed a four-and-a-half-hour debate on departmental expenditures and the passage was seen by political analysts here as taking political pressure off Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha. The government can now draw advances from the national treasury to meet its expenses while awaiting formal passage of the budget, which includes a 47 per cent deficit, in the next two to four weeks.

Nepal's economy has been damaged by an ongoing trade and transit dispute with India that has seen New Delhi close nearly all of the land routes into the landlocked Himalayan kingdom.

Numerous opposition members of the National Panchayat, or Parliament, including the former finance minister, Dr. Yadav Prasad Pant, criticised Mr. Shrestha's budget estimate as "benefitting the richer class" without providing sound economic programs for the rural poor.

Finance Minister Bharat Bahadur Pradhan announced last Monday, while presenting the budget, that 5.44 billion rupees (197.8 million dollars) were allocated for improving the conditions of rural people living below the poverty line. The amount was 40 per cent of the 13.59 billion rupees (494 million dollars) earmarked for the development fund.

Some 62 per cent of Nepal's 18.4 million people live in poverty.

Mr. Shrestha's government allocated 27 per cent of the estimated 6.65-billion-rupee regular expenditures, or 1.8 billion rupees (65.45 million dollars), for defense and security forces.

Mr. Pradhan said the government proposed to meet the projected deficit of 9.51 billion rupees (346 million dollars) through foreign loans totalling 7.76 billion rupees (282.18 million dollars), with an additional 1.75 billion rupees (63.6 million dollars) from internal borrowing and the sale of tax-free treasury bills and development bonds bearing 13 per cent annual interest.

Analysts here said that the passing of the votes on the accounts bill helped Mr. Shrestha, who can now face his opposition "confidently and effectively."

But Pashupati Rana, a former water resources minister and a leading opposition member, said that "industrial production has declined by 50 per cent, trade has come to a standstill, export has decreased, and agriculture is likely to be adversely affected. In this situation," he said, "the revenue from excise duty, tax and customs duty is going to decline, but the budget asserts that there will be no effect on revenue collection."

He questioned how 10 billion rupees (363.6 million dollars) could be collected when the revised estimate for this year's revenue collection was only 7 billion rupees (254.5 million dollars).

"If target revenue collection is not achieved, the budget will not be able to support the regular expenditure—the whole budget will depend upon foreign assistance and lead to deficit financing which, in turn, will give rise to inflation. The rising prices will be compounded by black-marketing of Indian currencies and (a) diesel price hike," he said, adding that "claims of the government to run development programmes on empty pockets is a false and misleading assurance."

Referring to the current economic survey, Mr. Rana said that "Nepal's gross domestic production (GDP) has been reduced by four per cent, and per capita income has gone down to 146 dollars. "Next year, the GDP is likely to fall by five-to-10 per cent and the decreasing purchasing power of the currency will cause our per capita income to fall to 130 dollars."

Mr. Rana, seen here as a possible contender for the premiership in the event of Mr. Shresta's downfall, warned that "the country will fall down to Ethiopia's level and be the poorest country."

Petroleum Prices Raised Nearly 50 Percent

BK1607032889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Nepal has increased the prices of petroleum products from today. According to a press note issued in Kathmandu, prices have been raised by nearly 50 percent. This follows the increase in transportation cost of petroleum products from third countries and the devaluation of Nepal currency against the hard currency. The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, Sushil Chopra, reports from Kathmandu that with the new pricing policy of petroleum products, cost of transportation and prices of other consumer items are likely to go up considerably in Nepal. Rationing of petroleum and diesel, introduced after the trade and transit treaty with India expired, has been lifted for private vehicles, but continues for the government vehicles.

Exports to India Fall; Other Exports Rise

BK1407130389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Kathmandu, July 14 (AFP)—Nepal's exports to India slumped during fiscal 1988-89 but its exports to other markets were up sharply in the financial year which ended Friday [14 July], a Nepalese Finance Ministry official said Friday.

Nepal's exports to countries other than India totaled an estimated 2.96 billion Nepalese rupees (107.8 million U.S. dollars) in fiscal 1988-89, the official said. Exports to India fell to an estimated 1.03 billion rupees (37.4 million dollars) during the year, mainly because of New Delhi's decision to impose stiff customs duties on Nepalese exports to India, the official added.

Nepal's total exports in fiscal 1987-88 hit 4.11 billion rupees (149.45 million dollars), including 1.56 billion rupees (56.98 million dollars) to India and 2.54 billion rupees (92.58 million dollars) to other countries.

Total imports in fiscal 1988-89 were estimated to have topped 15 billion rupees (545.4 million dollars), the official said, but imports from India were estimated to have dropped by over one billion rupees (36.3 million dollars) because of restrictions imposed on exports to Nepal since March 23. Imports from countries other than India were estimated at 10.9 billion rupees (396.3 million dollars) with imports from India an estimated 4.1 billion rupees (149.09 million dollars).

Imports included textiles, transportion and mechanical equipment, industrial raw materials, building materials, chemicals, chemical fertilizer, condensed and powdered milk, hydroelectric equipment, soya bean oil, electrical appliances, medicines and medical equipment.

India and Nepal have been embroiled in a trade dispute since trade and transit treaties expired on March 23. Only four items—rice, jute and jute cuttings and purified butter—were exempted from the customs duties.

The Finance Ministry official noted that India's share of Nepal's total trade had dropped to 28 percent. In the mid-1960's, India accounted for the bulk of Nepal's trade, absorbing 85-90 percent of its exports.

Meanwhile, Nepalese Government spokesman R.S. Bista said at a weekly press briefing that the government was still waiting for India's reply to a proposal to hold foreign ministerial level talks here in a bid to end the impasse. "Nepal is looking ahead to a meaningful dialogue with India on all issues of bilateral interest including transit and trade," state-run Nepal television quoted Mr. Bista as saying.

India Asked To End 'Mud-Slinging,' Hold Talks

BK1807142989 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 1 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Positive Response"]

[Text] His Majesty's Government [HMG], demonstrating its keenness to break the stalemate with India through dialogue, has responded promptly to the letter sent by the Indian External Affairs Minister. As revealed to the Rastriya Panchayat last Thursday by Minister for Foreign Affairs Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, HMG's reply on June 26 to the communication from India of June 16 which was received here on June 19, contains positive reaction to the items of agenda proposed by India as well as clear and concrete views on wide range of bilateral relations. According to Minister Upadhyaya, the letter from the Indian External Affairs Minister was silent on venue, level and time for talks and HMG's reply contained suggestions that the talks be held in Kathmandu at foreign minister level and that any timeframe proposed by India would be acceptable to Nepal.

The exchange of letters indicates a positive development towards the resolving of outstanding issues between Nepal and India. His Majesty's Government and the people of Nepal desire a speedy end to the impasse that hangs like a dark cloud over the relations between the two neighbouring countries. It is specially sad that the stalemate has taken the form of an incessant tirade against Nepal from sections of the Indian media. The Nepalese people cannot understand the purpose behind such vilification from government-run media of neighbouring country which they hold with nothing but warm feelings. Nepal bears ill will towards none and desires to live in friendship with all, especially its neighbours. Nepal could, with justification, respond in like manner to the diatribe from the Indian media if it wanted to depart from the accepted norms of conduct between countries. But such is not the way to resolve differences.

There is no dispute that cannot be settled through friendly discussions. If there are matters of dissatisfaction, the right course of action is to sit down and talk about them. Nepal has always expressed its desire to hold talks, and the reply sent to the letter of the Indian External Affairs Minister is another demonstration of this wish. The reply also draws attention to the Indian media's diatribe against Nepal taking into account the Nepalese sentiments voiced by the RP [Rastriya Panchayat, Parliament] members with regard to the malicious propaganda in the Indian media, according to Minister Upadhyaya. The Foreign Minister has also done well to emphasise that Nepal, firmly believing in the principles of panchashila [the five principles of peaceful coexistence], non-alignment and the UN Charter, does not interfere with internal affairs of other countries and expects others, specially neighbours, to do the same. At this point, the Nepalese people would like to see a demonstration of India's good intentions in the form of speedy talks and an end to the mud-slinging in the media.

Pakistan

Bhutto on French Nuclear Aid, India, Sind Unrest

BK1807162389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister has said she held useful talks on the nuclear reprocessing plant with President Mitterrand during her recent visit to France, and some progress was made on this matter. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon, Ms Benazir Bhutto expressed the hope that this matter will be pursued further when the French president visits Pakistan.

About allegations of accepting Indian hegemony, she said those who talk like this are the ones who call India a big brother. She said the present government is trying to settle matters with India on the basis of equality and mutual respect. She added that we are an elected government and enjoy the people's full support for our moves.

About the law and order situation in Sind, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that the press is presenting an exaggerated picture of the actual situation. The law and order problem is not restricted to Sind alone. The situation arose because of martial law, and the government is trying everything possible to improve it. In fact, the situation has improved so much that for the first time, the army is not deployed anywhere in Sind. She said that a few incidents of a minor nature happen once in a while and the provincial government is dealing with them appropriately.

Indian Foreign Minister Meets With President

BK1807153789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The Indian external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, paid a courtesy call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad this afternoon. They reviewed recent developments in India-Pakistan relations and expressed satisfaction on the progress made at the joint commission's meeting.

The president emphasized that bilateral cooperation must be based on the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity so that it could be meaningful.

MQM Urge Leaders To Leave Sind Government

BK1607024889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Six members of the National Assembly and 11 members of the Sind Provincial Assembly belonging to the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] have alleged at a press conference in Karachi that the Sind government has failed to protect the law-abiding citizens and that it is defending terrorists. The MQM group has appealed to the central leadership of their party to review the relations with the ruling Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in light of the PPP's attitude toward the MQM and non-Sindhis. They said that the time has come for the MQM leadership to consider leaving the government to sit on opposition benches in the assembly.

Minister of State for Defense Leaves for Tehran

BK1907042289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, retired, the minister of state for defense, has gone to Tehran on the invitation of the Iranian minister of state for defense. Talking to a Radio Pakistan correspondent prior to his departure, he said that the main objective of his trip was to further promote relations with Iran, especially in the field of defense.

Bomb Explodes at Mardan Bus Station 19 July

BK1907111489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] A bomb exploded at Juma bus stand in Mardan today. There was no loss of life. However, nearby standing buses were damaged.

Sri Lanka

PLOTE Leader Uma Maheshwaran Killed in Colombo

BK1807044889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Reports from the Sri Lankan capital Colombo say that the leader of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, PLOTE, Mr Uma Maheshwaran, has been killed. The murder took place on Sunday [16 July] night in Colombo and the body was recovered yesterday. A final police confirmation is awaited.

Gunmen Not Identified

BK1807101389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0934 GMT 18 Jul 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 18 (LANKAPUVATH)—Uma Mahesweran, leader of the PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] group of militants, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen Sunday night in Colombo.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that Mahesweran's bullet-riddled body was found at Frankfurt Place, Bambalapitiya in Colombo, about 1925 hours (local time) Sunday by the police. They said the PLOTE leader was walking down Frankfurt Place when he was gunned down. He had been living at Talkotuwa, Kirulapone in Colombo.

The body was identified today by his wife who lives in Colombo and a close relative, at the Colommo General Hospital morgue where it was lying.

Uma Mahesweran, the most senior Tamil militant was 45-years-old at the time of his death and hailed from Jaffna. A government surveyor, before he took to militant politics, Mahesweran was attached to the Surveyor General's Department.

In the early 1970's he teamed up with Velupillai Prabhakaran and was the founder chairman of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). He quit the group in 1979 due to differences with Prabhakaran, who took over as leader of the LTTE, while Mahesweran formed the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE).

In the post-1983 period he moved to Madras, along with Prabhakaran and other militants and the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders. It was during this stay in Madras that Mahesweran and Prabhakaran, who had by now become bitter enemies, had a shootout in the bustling Pondy Bazaar in Madras.

Mr. Mahesweran who styled PLOTE as a Marxist group, accepted the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

He returned to Sri Lanka in 1986. In 1988, he became the first Tamil militant leader to call for the withdrawal of Indian troops from northeast Sri Lanka.

Uma Mahesweran was also alleged to have masterminded the abortive November 3 coup last year in the Maldives, according to witnesses at the trial.

Premadasa Conveys Condolences to TULF Families

BK1707114589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The funeral of the late TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leader, A. Amirthalingam, and former MP [member of parliament] for Jaffna, V. Yogeswaran, took place in Jaffna this afternoon. The remains were flown to Batticaloa from Trincomalee yesterday for the people to pay their last respects.

President Premadasa visited Trincomalee and paid his last respects at the town hall. After paying his respects, the president conveyed his condolences to the family members of the late Mr Amirthalingam and Mr Yogeswaran, including Mrs Amirthalingam.

On arrival at the town hall, Mr Premadasa was received by Chief Minister of the Northeastern Provincial Council Varadaraja Perumal. [passage omitted]

Indian, Colombo Troops Clash by 'Mistake'

BK1607030589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] While an IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] patrol party of about 30 persons was passing close to a Sri Lankan Army camp at 0300 on Friday [14 July] 5 kilometers northeast of Vavuniya, the guards of the Sri Lankan Army camp opened fire by mistake on the Indian Army patrol. The Indian patrol returned fire. The exchange of fire lasted for a short while and it was stopped when the mistake was realized by both sides. In the exchange of fire two Indian jawans [soldiers] were killed and five wounded. On the Sri Lankan side also there were casualties.

The unit commanders of both sides met soon after the incident. The Sri Lankan unit commander explained that the fire was a mistake and their explanation was accepted. Official sources in New Delhi point out that it was decided to treat the matter as closed. It was also decided not to publicize the incident. However, certain elements in Colombo put out a totally exaggerated version of the matter which has been broadcast by the BBC.

21 Killed in Clashes Between LTTE, IPKF

BK1707152889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 17 (AFP)—Twenty-one people, including 10 civilians, have been killed in skirmishes between Indian soldiers and Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka's east and northeast, a government spokesman said here Monday [17 July].

The 10 civilians died and at least several more were wounded Sunday in a fierce crossfire between rebel forces of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and a contingent of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) in the eastern Trincomalee area, the spokesman said.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the civilian casualties occured because the outnumbered LTTE rebels forced unarmed people to form a "shield" around them during a gunbattle with the IPKF.

He did not say if the civilians were hit by bullets fired by the Indian or the rebel side, nor did he give the number of wounded.

In a separate clash Saturday, the spokesman said that LTTE rebels shot dead seven Indian soldiers and wounded between 10 and 12 in an ambush in northern Vavuniya sector, but he provided no additional details. Three suspected LTTE men were gunned down Saturday by the IPKF in northeastern Batticaloa region, he said. [passage omitted]

Rebels End 2d Round of Talks With Colombo

BK1807132589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1314 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 18 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrilla group has ended its second round of peace talks with the island government, Tamil sources said here Tuesday.

The eight members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) delegation and their bodyguards vacated their luxury hotel here and left for London and to the island's Tamil-populated northeast late Monday, the sources said.

The LTTE's chief spokesman, Anton Balasingham, his Australian wife and Mr. Lawrence Thilagar left for London. The others, including Yogaratnam Yogi, were reported to have left for the northeast, where the LTTE has since October 1987 been carrying on a guerrilla war against some 45,000 Indian troops deployed in the island nation. No further details were available.

The LTTE began its first round of talks with the Sri Lankan Government in April. The second round was initiated in June, during which the group announced a cessation of hostilities against Colombo. But fighting between the LTTE and the Indian troops in the northeast has continued during the talks, leaving several people dead.

The LTTE has repudiated a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end Tamil separatism and devolve limited autonomy to the Tamil community. India has deployed troops in Sri Lanka under the accord.

1,000 'Subversives' Rounded Up by Security Forces

BK1807112389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Security forces launched a major operation to round up suspected subversives over the weekend. Over 1,000 suspected subversives at Kegalla, Ratnapura, Colombo, Biyagama, Hambantota, Matara, Badulla, Moneragala, Gampola and Polonnaruwa were rounded up for questioning. In several cases, the security forces found antigovernment literature in the possession of these suspected subversives. Some were taken in for questioning while in the process of distributing and posting antigovernment literature.

Security forces also recovered from a house in Homagama 1,000 identity cards. In the Kandy District a further 1,000 identity cards have been recovered.

According to a government communique shotguns, [word indistinct], cartridges, revolvers and uniforms have also been recovered from hideouts of subversives over the weekend.

Northeast Province Chief Calls Opposition Parties
BK1107160989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeast Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has convened a conference of opposition parties in a bid to make them aware of the problems faced by the Tamils and find a solution to it. In a letter addressed to all top Sri Lankan party leaders today, Mr Perumal said the present crisis cannot be defused by the talks between Colombo and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. He said the process of devolution of power to the Northeastern council has been diluted by the Sri Lankan Government.

Paper Asks For Lifting Foreign Media Censorship
BK1707032589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1048 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 16 (AFP)—A leading Sri Lanka Sunday newspaper called for the immediate lifting of censorship on foreign correspondents. The SUNDAY TIMES said in an editorial, which had been partly censored, that it was necessary to question the trend of official thinking.

"There is an urgent need for reconsideration of censorship imposed on foreign reportage of the present crisis," the newspaper said. It warned that if despatches of foreign correspondents continued to be heavily censored there was the risk of special correspondents on fleeting visits going away with a grossly distorted view of the situation here.

The newspaper was also critical of the censors and the way different media were being treated. "The censors who deleted the statement by Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne that local correspondents of foreign newspapers and wire services would be jailed if they flout censorship regulations did not seem to object to it being published in the government's own DAILY NEWS or broadcast in the news bulletin of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation," the paper said. "The crisis the country is faced with is sufficient in enormity as not to be made worse by amateurish censorship locally, and unnecessary censorship of articles on Sri Lanka sent for foreign media," the TIMES said.

The government imposed censorship under a state of emergency July 6 saying there was an attempt by anti-government rebels to topple the administration by crippling essential services.